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Thursday, December 24th, 2009

Vol. 2 Issue 48

County Voice

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Minden Hills to be Declared a Disaster Area

By Liz Daniels

With a goal of trying to recover the extraordinary costs associated with the dramatic snow squall that hit the community between December 10th and 12th, the Minden Hills Council has officially asked the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to declare the entire municipality a disaster area.

While work crews continue to try to dig the community out from under record breaking amounts of snow, the Council called for a special meeting on Monday to look at their options. Municipal Advisors Chris Gleeson and Penny Sharman from MMAH were on hand to provide a detailed overview of the Ontario Disaster

Relief Assistance Program, established to provide financial relief where losses or extraordinary costs have been experienced due to natural disasters.

As with most bureaucrats, Gleeson prefaced his presentation with cautions that there are no guarantees of funding and that contrary to various preconceived myths about disaster relief, the province does not maintain a 'pot' of money for emergencies. He also said that the province would only be prepared to repair, restore or replace essential items to pre-disaster conditions for infrastructure like roads, sewers and buildings.

According to Gleeson, the ODRAP program is geared to provide assistance only for natural disasters where the impacts were considerable, the event was unforeseen and unbudgeted for by the municipality and damage was not covered

Disaster cont'd... pg. 10...



Highlands East Reeve Burton Elected County Warden for Second Term

"We'll have to work very hard to find a good balance." (Warden Dave Burton)

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

Last Tuesday night Highlands East's Reeve Dave Burton was elected for the second term in a row to the position of Warden for Haliburton County for 2010. Burton says that he is committed to working very hard for the residents of the County and that he and the other members of County Council will continue to encourage whatever activities and services they can in support of the local economy.

County CAO Jim Wilson called the meeting to order and asked for nominations. Dysart Deputy Reeve Bill Davis, who has held the position of Warden in the past, and has been rumoured to want the responsibility again, immediately nominated Burton. Davis praised Burton for his dedication to the position of Warden over the past year and said that he had been of the County. The nomination was seconded by Algonquin Highlands Reeve Eleanor Harrison. With no further nominations forthcoming, Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey suggested

Burton cont'd... pg. 2...

A Day of Giving

by Lyn Winans

Despite the conspicuous OPP cruiser at the main doors of Dollo's IGA on Friday afternoon, nobody was stealing groceries again. In fact, shoppers were giving food away.

The City of Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton County OPP Auxiliary Unit had filled a cruiser at Valumart that same morning and was working on its second carload of groceries to be distributed to local families through the Christmas Basket program operating under the umbrella of the Minden Food Bank. Just a few nights earlier, the Minden Fire Department had braved the cold going door-to-door collecting for the cause.

In the loading area of the IGA, volunteers Rick Ratcliffe, Paul

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Christmas at
Stuart Baker..
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Vince Duchene*** Troy Austen & Linda Baumgartner Cathy Lancia & Shirley Rule Tom ** & Gall Tempest Peter Brady* Terry Carr Elizabeth Thompson Marg & John Parish
Ted Vasey Geoff Bunn Ken Barry* Marilyn Hawley Jeff Wilson Debra Lambe Fred Chapple Denise LeBlanc Melanie Vigrass Bill Kulas Lynda Litwin Madeline Doyle Iona Fevreau, Rick Forget & Mary Hamden

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Highlands East Reeve Burton Elected County Warden for Second Term Cont'd....

... from pg. 1

that nominations be closed and Burton accepted the nomination with pleasure.

Reverend Patsy Henry offered some inspirational words to all of those in attendance. She quoted a poem that has been attributed to Mother Teresa about personal development, truth, honesty and giving the world (in this case the County) the best that you have to give, something that Burton has pledged to do.

During his comments, Burton acknowledged that 2010 will continue to be a challenge for the County, particularly as the economy remains in a precarious state. He said, "I expect that we may see a reduction in stimulus funding and perhaps our expectations will be very much governed by the money that is available to us."

He spoke of several sectors of the local economy that have been suffering of late, stressing that the forestry sector had been hit particularly hard. Burton also touched on the level of unemployment in the County, saying, "We're very aware of the increase in unemployment and the resulting increases in the use of our food banks," suggesting that the County would continue to do everything it could to reduce the impact on those with little or no income.

Burton also talked about the County's achievements over the past year, with a number of stimulus projects either completed or reaching completion, including improvements to roads, bridges and particularly to the expansion of broadband services, which are so important to the local business community.

Burton said that phone and Internet services continue to be a priority for the County and that the Council must do everything they can to improve those services: "The County will continue to play an active role with the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus to keep Haliburton County on the radar for continued expansion of high speed service," he said, adding that as part of the EOWC's broadband program there would also be some emphasis placed on wireless and satellite phone services, which should go a long way towards reducing and making the costs for those services much more comparable.

Burton acknowledged the amount of hard work put into the County's Official Plan review by both Council and the staff, saying he was very excited about seeing this project finalized, particularly as it would assist the municipalities in the completion of their own

Official Plans over the next several years..

He said that he would continue to dedicate his time and energy to making the Ontario Seniors Games – Winterfest a success when hosted in the Haliburton County in 2011. He took a moment to voice his appreciation of the volunteers across the county, saying, "We look forward to the continued support of those volunteers who offer us their support and expertise, as we could not pull this or many other projects off without them."

Burton touched briefly on the recent announcement by the province to reduce funding in 2010 previously made available through the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund which will result in an unanticipated 12 percent increase in the cost of delivering services across the board. Burton said, "We may have to cut some services and will have to work very hard to find a good balance."

"Having served in 2009 I can see that one year goes by very quickly and I look forward to working with a Council that wants to be creative in delivering responsible government to our County," he said. "We want to work as a team towards common goals for Haliburton County and the wonderful people that we represent." ■



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Warden & Reeves 2010

From Left: Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch, Reeve Jim McMahon, Deputy Reeve Bill Davis, Warden Burton, Deputy Reeve Tom Gardiner, Reeve Murray Fearrey, Reeve Eleanor Harrison, Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie.

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THURSDAY



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▲ -1° ▼ -11°

FRIDAY



Cloudy and warmer with light rain likely

▲ 3° ▼ 0°

SATURDAY



Colder with snow showers

▲ 0° ▼ -8°

SUNDAY



Windy and colder with snow showers

▲ -7° ▼ -12°

MONDAY



Windy with snow showers

▲ -7° ▼ -14°

TUESDAY



Partly to mostly cloudy skies

▲ -8° ▼ -16°

WEDNESDAY



Partly to mostly cloudy skies

▲ -7° ▼ -14°

AROUND THE REGION: Dry weather will be experienced on Thursday as skies will be partly sunny. Highs will be near zero. Rain will move through the area on Friday, then changing to snow Friday night. Highs will be in the lower single digits. It will be colder through the holiday weekend with highs in the single digits below zero.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers



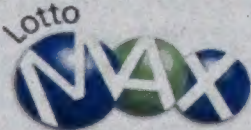
19-Dec-2009

12 15 19 41 42 49

BONUS 48



3786158



18-Dec-2009

08 10 15 17 33 34 35

BONUS 13



9675533

TROPICAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low/Outk	Friday Hi/Low/Outk	Saturday Hi/Low/Outk	City	Today Hi/Low/Outk	Friday Hi/Low/Outk	Saturday Hi/Low/Outk
Acapulco	31/26/su	31/26/pc	31/26/cl	Montego Bay	28/22/su	28/22/su	32/27/su
Antigua	31/24/pc	29/23/ts	31/26/su	Nassau	26/20/sh	26/21/sh	31/28/sh
Barbados	31/24/pc	30/24/pc	31/27/ra	Port au Prince	31/23/ts	32/24/pc	33/26/cl
Bermuda	17/14/pc	18/14/pc	31/26/sh	Puerto Vallarta	26/19/pc	24/17/cl	29/23/na
Cancun	27/21/pc	27/21/pc	32/26/na	St Thomas	29/24/ts	28/24/ts	28/23/pc
Curacao	32/24/pc	31/24/pc	31/24/ts	St Maarten	30/24/pc	29/24/ts	31/27/su
Freeport	23/18/sh	26/19/sh	33/28/su	San Jose, CR	30/21/ts	31/22/ts	31/21/ra
Georgetown	30/24/ts	31/24/ts	31/23/ts	San Juan	29/24/ts	29/23/ts	28/22/su
Havana	27/18/sh	28/19/pc	34/24/su	San Salvador	31/18/su	30/18/pc	32/22/su
Key West	24/18/sh	26/18/sh	24/19/pc	Santo Domingo	31/23/ts	31/24/ts	33/26/su
Kingston	29/23/su	29/23/su	33/32/su	Trinidad	31/25/ts	31/25/ts	32/27/ra

REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low/Outk	Friday Hi/Low/Outk	Saturday Hi/Low/Outk	Sunday Hi/Low/Outk	Monday Hi/Low/Outk	Tuesday Hi/Low/Outk	Wednesday Hi/Low/Outk
Bancroft	-1/-11/pc	3/-1/sh	0/-9/sn	-7/-12/sf	-7/-14/sf	-8/-16/cl	-7/-14/cl
Barrie	-1/-10/pc	3/0/sh	1/-8/sn	-6/-11/sf	-6/-13/sf	-8/-15/cl	-6/-14/cl
Dorset	-1/-11/pc	3/-1/sh	0/-9/sn	-7/-12/sf	-7/-14/sf	-8/-16/cl	-7/-14/cl
Haliburton	-1/-11/pc	3/0/sh	0/-8/sn	-7/-12/sf	-7/-14/sf	-8/-16/cl	-7/-14/cl
Huntsville	-1/-11/pc	3/-1/sh	0/-9/sn	-7/-12/sf	-7/-14/sf	-8/-16/cl	-7/-14/cl
Kingston	1/-9/pc	4/0/cl	1/-8/sn	-5/-10/sf	-6/-13/sf	-7/-13/cl	-5/-13/cl
Lindsay	0/-10/pc	3/0/sh	1/-8/sn	-6/-11/sf	-6/-13/sf	-8/-15/cl	-6/-14/cl
Minden	-1/-11/pc	3/0/sh	0/-8/sn	-7/-12/sf	-7/-14/sf	-8/-16/cl	-7/-14/cl
Oshawa	1/-8/pc	4/1/sh	1/-7/sn	-4/-10/sf	-6/-13/sf	-7/-13/cl	-4/-13/cl
Ottawa	1/-11/su	1/-3/pc	0/-8/sn	-7/-12/sf	-7/-15/sf	-8/-16/sf	-8/-15/cl
Toronto	2/-8/pc	4/1/sh	1/-7/sn	-4/-11/sf	-6/-13/sf	-7/-13/cl	-4/-13/cl

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low/Outk	Friday Hi/Low/Outk	Saturday Hi/Low/Outk	Sunday Hi/Low/Outk	Monday Hi/Low/Outk	Tuesday Hi/Low/Outk	Wednesday Hi/Low/Outk
Calgary	-3/-11/su	0/-9/pc	0/-13/pc	-7/-17/cl	-8/-20/cl	-8/-21/cl	-8/-19/cl
Edmonton	-3/-11/su	-3/-12/pc	-10/-21/pc	-15/-28/sn	-22/-29/sn	-22/-29/cl	-23/-30/cl
Fredericton	1/-7/pc	-1/-8/su	0/-8/mx	2/-4/mx	-2/-9/sf	-3/-12/sf	-3/-12/sf
Halifax	1/-7/pc	-1/-7/su	1/-9/pc	2/-8/sh	0/-8/sn	-1/-8/sf	1/-8/sf
Montreal	0/10/su	1/-3/pc	-2/-10/sn	-6/-15/sf	-7/-15/sf	-8/-17/sf	-9/-16/cl
Regina	-3/-12/cl	-1/-12/pc	-6/-18/cl	-10/-22/cl	-11/-23/pc	-12/-24/cl	-11/-23/cl
St. John's	-2/-8/pc	-3/-8/pc	1/-8/su	1/-8/cl	1/-9/sn	-1/-10/sn	-2/-9/sn
Saskatoon	-7/-14/su	-2/-10/pc	-9/-21/cl	-15/-24/cl	-18/-26/pc	-19/-27/cl	-16/-26/cl
Vancouver	7/2/su	8/4/pc	6/4/cl	9/4/sh	10/4/sh	10/5/sh	10/6/sh
Whitehorse	-6/-13/pc	-4/-11/cl	-6/-13/sn	-6/-13/sf	-7/-15/sf	-8/-17/sn	-8/-16/sn
Winnipeg	-4/-12/sf	-3/-11/sn	-7/-15/cl	-12/-23/cl	-21/-30/cl	-22/-29/cl	-19/-27/cl

AREA ALMANAC

Last seven days	High	Low	Prec.
Monday 12/21	-4°C	-14°C	0.0 mm
Sunday 12/20	-2°C	-9°C	0.0 mm
Saturday 12/19	-8°C	-26°C	0.0 mm
Friday 12/18	-8°C	-27°C	0.0 mm
Thursday 12/17	-12°C	-20°C	0.0 mm
Wednesday 12/16	-6°C	-13°C	0.0 mm
Tuesday 12/15	0°C	-9°C	0.0 mm

Readings from Haliburton/Stanhope Airport
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Forecasts, graphs and data
provided by Weather Central,
Inc., Madison, Wis. © 2009

SUN & MOON

Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set
Thu. 7:51 a.m./4:37 p.m.	11:40 a.m./none
Fri. 7:51 a.m./4:38 p.m.	12:01 p.m./12:59 a.m.
Sat. 7:52 a.m./4:38 p.m.	12:25 p.m./2:07 a.m.
Sun. 7:52 a.m./4:39 p.m.	12:55 p.m./3:18 a.m.
Mon. 7:52 a.m./4:40 p.m.	1:33 p.m./4:31 a.m.
Tues. 7:52 a.m./4:40 p.m.	2:23 p.m./5:44 a.m.
Wed. 7:52 a.m./4:41 p.m.	3:25 p.m./6:52 a.m.



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"It's a little creation of mine I call,
'Frothy the Snowman'."

Letter of the Week

Dear Editor:

"That place is no shelter; it's a death sentence..."

I have been following the situation regarding a possible dog pound in Minden Hills for years now. I hear people saying the animals need a pound/shelter etc, so I thought I would offer the other side of the argument. For sure the unwanted and lost animals need help desperately! The term animal shelter is thrown around quite loosely these days. For instance we hear about the Paws animal shelter in Faraday Township, better known to many as the Bancroft dog pound. That place is no shelter; it is a death sentence to 99 percent of the dogs that are sent there: they are open one hour a day at the evening supper hour, and are closed on Sundays.

If people want to create a Bancroft type dog pound in Minden Hills, the animals are far better off without one. If Minden Hills gets a dog pound along those lines, people will bring dogs from all over; it will be a mass slaughter. Now on the other hand, I love this idea with the possible cat colony coming to Highlands East. There is an idea that is outside of the box that is the way in which we need to think about the dogs in the area as well.

We need to move away from euthanasia, cages, and concrete, and move toward sanctuaries instead. The catch, spay and release program for the cats, done properly, will actually be a savings to the community, not to mention that we will be teaching our children respect for life, rather than just killing animals. We need to think along the same lines for the unwanted dogs in the area. Let's not ship them off to be held for a week in a dark cage and then euthanized. Large fenced in areas with heated mini barns and swinging carpets. Spay and neuter all the dogs, you put two or three in the same area and they are very happy, put their pictures in the paper for adoption, the ones that are not adopted live their lives out on this yet to be built sanctuary. It's not that expensive really, eight by ten mini barns with a 500 watt electric baseboard heater, is very inexpensive.

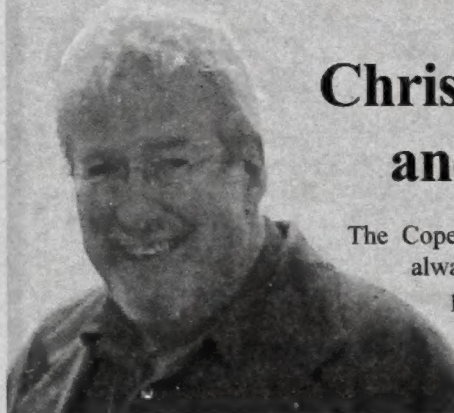
You would make the fenced in areas large enough for the dogs to run and play. Let's stop the killing, teach our children respect for life. Highlands East could be an example to the world.

Kelly Harmon
Eagle Lake

[Editor's Note: see story on the Highlands East proposal on Page 19...] ■

Editorial VIEWPOINT

By Stephen Patrick



Christmas, The Earth, and Copenhagen

The Copenhagen Summit on global warming was always destined to be a major news story, perhaps the most important story of the past year. And, sure enough, as we approach Christmas and the Holiday Season, the lessons, or lack of them, from that Summit have a special resonance somehow, making it appropriate to reflect

on our complicated relationship with what used to be known as Mother Earth.

In Haliburton County we have a special bond with our environment, since it in so many ways defines how we live, how we make a living, why we move here, and why we stay. A stroll in high summer through one of our mature forests, which still abound here, can be as uplifting, sobering, and inspiring an experience as spending a few hours in one of the world's great cathedrals. I walked to work through Haliburton Village at 6:45 this morning in the cold half light of late December with a just a few snowflakes floating down: now that was a scene that makes most sentimental Christmas cards look second rate, at best.

And how easy it is to feel a million miles away from the bitter cacophony of Copenhagen – with its brutal show of power and political expediency, the rhetoric screaming like supersonic missiles, the confrontations played out like the last act of a great tragedy with elemental forces raging against each other. But no place on this planet will ever be immune from Copenhagen, and its 'agreement'.

It's also instructive to gauge the world media reaction to the Summit. If you read the Globe and Mail's coverage at week's end, and then turned to the Guardian, for example, you could hardly believe that their correspondents and columnists had been to the same event. Indeed, even the so-called liberal establishment papers like the Toronto Star and the New York Times were positively mild in their criticism, compared to the passionate contempt and wrath exhibited towards the agreement by the European media, and many of their officials and diplomats, matched only by the despair of the African delegations.

Our own Prime Minister seems almost embarrassed to be at the meeting, and quietly heads for home, the tar sands untouched, the political base intact. Africa, the still-lost continent, is condemned to perhaps another century of unending misery. And sadly, as one activist suggested, "The most progressive US president in a generation comes to the most important international meeting since the Second World War and delivers a speech so devoid of substance that he might as well have made it on speaker-phone from a beach in Hawaii. His aides argue in private that he had no choice, such is the opposition on Capitol Hill to any action that could challenge the dominance of fossil fuels in American life. And so the nation that put a man on the Moon can't summon the collective will to protect men and women back here on Earth from the consequences of an economic model and lifestyle choice that has taken on the mantle of a religion."

Most of us in this blessed corner of the world love and respect our environment deeply and marvel at what the Victorians called the "Natural World" (as distinct from that which mankind has wrought). And we respect as well the strong community values and green commitment of most of our local businesses and institutions. But the harsh winds of global politics in a rapaciously consumer-driven world will surely soon blow through our forests and villages with the same power as they do now in the harsh streets of the world's great cities. Which should be fair warning to our politicians and civic leaders, even in this season of peace, family, and giving: adapt, change, or be swept away as swiftly as the ice in a fast-flowing Highlands spring stream. ■

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More Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Attn: Barry Devolin, MP

Environment Haliburton! must express its dismay at the current Canadian position on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Human created climate change is real. The planet and life as we now enjoy it are careening toward disaster. The science is clear, the scientists frightened. The world needs meaningful immediate reductions in the release of greenhouse gases. The developed world needs to reduce our emissions dramatically. The developing world needs support to adopt new technologies.

We ask you to join the world in demanding that Canada adopt hard and immediate and enforceable reduction targets, including the halt to the expansion of the tar sands projects. We ask you to join the world in demanding that Canada support environmental justice and make a significant and on-going contribution to a fund to support developing nations also get off carbon. Finally we ask that Canada at last begin significant investment in building the green and equitable economy.

Environment Haliburton! is distressed and shocked to find our nation an international environmental villain. As a nation we are better than this and we ask that your government live up to our best not down to our worst.

Wishing you a green Christmas and a carbon reduced New Year.

Yours sincerely

Heather Ross for EH! ■

Dear Editor:

"Where is the leadership role from Council?"

Every municipality in Haliburton County was hit with severe snow storms. Minden Hills declared a state of emergency and it is my understanding it did not take advantage of assistance offered from other areas. Although I do not live in Minden Hills, I, like several others, travel Minden Hills municipal roads and yet they were left unplowed for several days when others offered assistance.

One would think Minden Hills would have an emergency plan in place to deal with such things as the snow storm we all endured. My questions would be if such was in place, why wasn't it implemented? If there isn't such a plan why not? What is wrong with Council? Where is the leadership role from Council? The cliché that council works at the pleasure of staff instead of staff working at the pleasure of council seems to be the norm. One would think municipal road safety and maintenance would be of the utmost priority. Perhaps council should be giving more direction to staff who are hired and responsible for the care and safe condition of Minden Hills municipal roads, especially in emergency situations as declared by council. Perhaps an explanation by Council as to why municipal roads were left in such a neglectful condition would be in order.

Beverly MacDuff
Gooderham. ■

Dear Editor:

"I felt like I was standing on a 1950's movie set."

Two weeks ago I was pleased to be invited by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to join him for an Official Visit to South Korea.

One of the things we did was visit the border between North and South Korea, the so-called DMZ, or Demilitarized Zone.

Even though Ursula and I lived in Korea for a year and a half, and I have visited Korea four times before on government business, I had never been to the DMZ.

When we talked about it afterwards, the Prime Minister echoed all our thoughts when he commented on the surreality of that place. I felt like I was standing on a 1950's movie set.

North Korean soldiers carrying automatic weapons were standing less than 5 feet from similarly armed South Korean and American soldiers. Through a window, I stood eye-to-eye less than a foot from a young North Korean border guard.

The rest of the world knows that in 2009, the Cold War lives on only on the Korean Peninsula. It reminded us of the Japanese soldiers living in the Okinawa jungle in the 1950s who did not know the Second World War had ended 10 years before.

It also reminded us that global security issues seem far from Canada, but they are still very real.

As so often is the case, this Canadian came home with an even better appreciation of what we sometimes take for granted in Canada.

Barry Devolin, M.P. ■

Dear Editor:

"Not enough of anything. Not enough food, or warm clothing, or fuel..."

Today, volunteers from the Minden Food Bank began preparing Christmas baskets for individuals and families in our community who don't have enough. Not enough of anything. Not enough food, or warm clothing, or fuel to keep their homes warm, or gifts of toys to give their children.

I felt really proud to be living here when I watched the organization of the donations starting to take place. I took some photographs of the vast array of items donated, displayed in the upstairs room of the Community Centre.

There are about 5,500 people in Haliburton County. By the time folks pick up their Christmas baskets, I suspect there will scarcely be a person in this county who is not connected to this activity in some way. Either you work for a company or attend a church that made a donation of food or money to the Food Bank. Or you made your own donation directly, or through one of the many service clubs who support us.

A friend of mine asked me today why we call it the Food Bank when it helps others in so many other ways as well. People donate hand knitted items which take hours to complete. They plow and shovel snow for those who can't. They drive around picking up and delivering toys to be distributed. They own businesses that provide a product or service to the Food Bank, either at no charge or very inexpensively.

Something lots of us don't know is that all of the area Food Banks share. Wilberforce and Cardiff and the 4C's and Minden all communicate and cooperate. We've done our best to try to be sure nobody goes cold or hungry.

Merry Christmas everyone, and thanks.

Laurie Langdon
Minden Hills ■

Dear Editor:

"Thanks once again. Job well done."

We live on County Rd 121, came home Thursday afternoon to a wonderful surprise. The snow piles at the end of our driveway had been pushed back. Visibility was increased dramatically. The County Roads Dept had taken it upon themselves to push back each laneway along 'our' road and others too.

This was very much appreciated guys. I now feel safer pulling out of the driveway. Thanks once again. Job well done.

Carol Simmons. ■

Cottagers Vacationers Snowbirds

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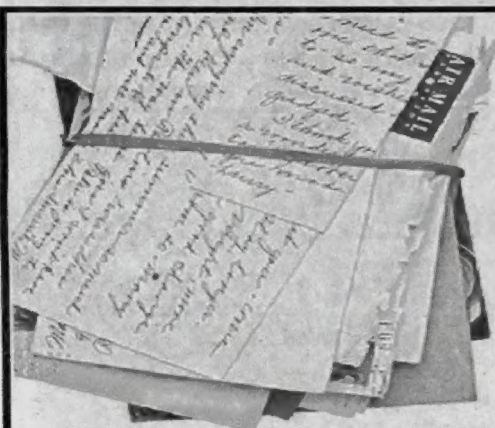
Letter to Editor
Box 930, Haliburton, On. K0M 1S0

Fax:

705-457-5004

In Person:

187 Highland St. Haliburton
Lower level of Stedman's Mail



Delays Encountered in Broadband Installations

Some Haliburtonians eagerly awaiting the installation of their high speed Internet service may be in for another disappointment. Reports provided to County Council last week indicated that there will be a delay in completing broadband installations in the Drag Lake, Moore Lake and Harcourt Park areas.

Treasurer Laura Janke reported that Ingoldsby, the Buckslide area and Percy Lake areas are all up and running and that Bell Aliant has started to make calls to residents to let them know that service is available. Janke said that the Broadband Outreach Committee had decided not to do official launches in the area given the time of year, but a large launch is being planned for the spring when cottagers start to arrive. A launch date will be set by the end of March in order to have the information available for the trade shows.

"We're getting very close to reaching our goal of 4900 new customers as planned," Janke said. But some problems are being encountered and Janke says she is maintaining constant contact with the associated cottage associations to keep them apprised of progress. She said that the County continues to receive e-mails and calls of enquiry and they respond with current updates.

Janke said that problems had been encountered with the Moore Lake installations as lines coming from Norland required new insulators. Tree trimming and clearing is underway, but the service will likely not be available until sometime in February.

February is also the due date for service in the Drag Lake area as it has been determined that approximately 15 kilometres of poles will have to be replaced. Janke estimated that the service will likely be available there by the first of February.

According to Janke, Harcourt Park will be the last area that will be served under this particular initiative. Backhaul and transportation problems as well as the need to upgrade much of the infrastructure from Gooderham and Highland Grove will delay the delivery of service until as late as August of 2010.

The committee is continuing its work to get signage up in Hotspot locations, where people can access the internet through wireless connections. While the library board would not approve the proposed signs and only want small notifications posted on the doors, Internet access is available at all libraries.

Once this program is completed residents will have to rely on the success of the regional broadband network being proposed by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus. In July the EOWC announced that the federal and provincial governments would each provide up to \$55 million dollars towards the creation of an eastern Ontario network intended to fill in many of the gaps in service that presently exist.

The EOWC anticipate that it will take up to three years to fully complete the network but many residents will begin to receive access and higher capacities as installations are made.

According to County CAO Jim Wilson, requests for proposals will be reviewed over the next several weeks. It is expected that announcements providing further information on this new broadband opportunity should be made early in the Yew Year. ■

Liz Danielsen

Staff Reporter

Christmas in Canada

Zoe Cittern

Staff Reporter



A mince pie hasn't touched my lips yet this holiday season an extremely rare and strange occurrence as back home in England I would be sending them back at least three times a day in the lead up to Christmas. A very unsettling feeling that I don't like. In order for me to clutch one of these precious pieces of happiness I would have to drive at least an hour to the nearest English store or make a batch however I fear I should not inflict my baking skills on the good people of Canada. Mince pies; individual short crust pastry tartlets filled with gooey goodness and a little bit of heaven; raisins, spices and dried fruit ooze out of their golden brown pastry encasing. Not ground beef as North Americans have treacherously filled theirs with. I cannot even muster the words over this inexcusable mistake.

Another item which is sadly missing from the Canadian

Christmas dinner plate is the gloriously wonderful 'Christmas Pudding.' Another food piece I like to have several servings of; it's a good thing my metabolism is that of a small child. A round steamed pudding filled with figs, raisins, nuts and treacle, once heated brandy is poured over it and set alight. I have no idea why people do this but I suppose it's something fun to do to pass the time. Next you need to pour far too much cream over it and delight over the sticky warm delight that you are about to feast over. It's normally appropriate to sit back afterwards and feel like you just gained an extra 12 pounds of course this must be guilt free as we all know it's perfectly normal to force feed yourself at Christmas time.

I was extremely disheartened and shocked recently to learn that Canadians do not have the delight of eating 'Pigs in Blankets'; a cute and whimsical named treat that again I feel the need to shovel at least eight back in one setting. Of course that excludes Boxing Day and Christmas Eve, Oh and obviously the other twelve days of Christmas. Miniature sausages are wrapped up in bacon and baked until their crispy on the outside and soft on the inside. Another baked good I will have to sadly forgo this year.

Of course these things do not make up for the fact that Christmas this year will not be a sodden mess of rain, rain and some more rain. Instead I hope I will be watching snowflakes outside the window instead of rain lashing down on my window panes. It could be my third white Christmas in all my 23 years. Do not cry for me. Instead pray that we have snow on Christmas Day as this will make this English girl far too happy. Apple cider, candy canes and other North American goodies will be coming my way all too soon. Let us not forget about the Christmas doughnuts at Tim Hortons, they are far too good to just eat one...

So yes perhaps I will be drowning my sorrows with a couple of chilled Canadians this Christmas Day but as long as you're with friends and family that's all that matters. The food comes a high second. Or a low first. Or an extremely close first.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone in Haliburton County and to my family and friends back home in Wokingham. ■



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Joe Sebesta
Sales Representative
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A Northern Christmas

by Liz Danielsen

Norman Wells, NT

This Christmas for some reason I find myself feeling just a little more Grinch-like than other years.

The feeling catches me off guard, because I've always been the ultimate kid during the holidays, wanting to make our home cheery, finding little gifts and indulging in me, including myself. Cutting and occasion of its own and quite often a small and take part, becoming more creative in their placement of ornaments with a bit of encouragement in a glass.

perfect surprises for everyone around trimming a tree has always been a special band of our friends would come over and placement of ornaments with a bit of encouragement in a glass.

But I delayed putting up decorations this year and turned a blind eye to shopping...that is until this week. Thank goodness I've always leaned towards local shopping. My man finally hauled out the tree and got the lights all working and I started to warm up to the idea of Christmas, at least just a little bit. I decided that to improve on that small bit of warmth growing inside me, I'd take a moment to look back at Christmas celebrations in the past in the hope that it would dispel the last of the cranky Grinch I feared I might have become.

No one would question that our home in the Northwest Territories was the perfect place for Christmas. We decked the peak and lines of the beautiful hand crafted log home with lights that drew lots of families from town to have a look.

My neighbour and I crafted folksy looking reindeer of log bits and burls and adorned them with real caribou antlers. They stood, peeking out from behind the tall black spruce and naked birch in our front yard. And each year we invited all of our friends and many of the community strays, usually single men working away from home, to share in a meal that we all brought together.

And that was the plan once again this particular Christmas. I got the turkey into the oven early that day and even I had to admit that it looked like a true culinary delight; a tasty 32 pound treat for everyone to enjoy. The dressing had turned out perfectly and I was feeling pretty good about things. With 20 or more friends and guests coming for dinner, of course I wanted things to be just right and Jim always looked forward to hot turkey sandwiches on Boxing Day and as long as they lasted.

With that chore complete, I lined up our furry friends so they could don their Christmas bows. Each year we tied a festive ribbon onto their collars and we'd leave them there until New Years, if it wasn't too tattered by then. Our beautiful silver and black German Shepherd named Joe, a white lab/shepherd cross called Blue and the same wayward little brown Pomeranian named Tommy who remains with us today. How they loved to get their bows and couldn't wait to prance and show them off to their canine pals that tagged along with close friends to take part in the day.

It had been snowing for hours and the wind was finally starting to kick up a fuss outside. All of a sudden there was a loud crash and in a flash our power was gone. We only had about 2 hours of daylight at that time of year, so even though it was mid morning, there was nothing but the earliest grey dawn to be seen outside; but it was enough to spot a downed tree leaning very heavily on our power line and a power mast that was bent.

Rats!! It looked like dinner was not happening and I could easily see all of my preparations quickly going to pot. But I scrambled for a flashlight and candles and Jim stoked the woodstove while we thought things over.

Getting the power company guys to come out and fix the problem would be like winning the lottery, but we mused about the possibilities anyway. In a town of 800 people there were only two of them, and it was Christmas morning. What were our chances?

We decided to give it a go and, as the phone was still working, I called the manager of the Northern Canada Power Commission at his home. That's one thing about tiny communities; you just can't get away from people. And sure enough Gary was home.

That truly was the day that we won the lottery. We sang our sad song to him and Gary agreed to bring his truck out and see what he could do and within two hours he was actually sitting at our kitchen table with a hot toddy in hand, the lights all aglow and the temperature of the turkey rising once again.

It wasn't too long before the revellers started to arrive, bringing small contributions and cards, candy and cakes, pets and kids and poisons of choice. Drinks were handed out and visiting dogs were presented with their bows and Christmas was truly under way.

Dinner was late, but no one cared and it was no less scrumptious for the delay. When we could stuff ourselves no more, a couple of the men set aside their macho personas and offered to tidy up in the kitchen while the rest of us rolled into the living room to sit in front of the fire, play a few games and listen to guitar riffs and song. We were all very mellow, although some more than others, and our troubles



seemed a long way off, at least for the moment.

We had decided to play Chinese Christmas, a tradition that allowed everyone to steal each other's wacky or risqué gifts and it must have re-energized some appetites, because before long Joe, one of the invited bachelors quietly asked if he could pick away at the turkey. "I have it so seldom and it's a favourite of mine," he said and of course, much of the food remained out for continued grazing so I welcomed him to pick away."

The evening continued and a few hours later I thought I'd better put on some coffee and set out some final treats before our guests bundled up and made their way home. When I went into the kitchen I couldn't believe my eyes. The turkey had been stripped completely bare. There wasn't a smidgeon of meat left or a crumb of dressing; not even enough to make a soup. And there was our friend Joe, full to popping with turkey and smiling with contentment. And that said it all.

As I stood outside waving the last of our guests goodbye, I saw that the sky had finally cleared and the northern lights where shimmering with ribbons of colour and I realized I couldn't have wished for a happier Christmas. And thinking about it now makes me feel quite warm and fuzzy, so I might just enjoy the holiday after all.

Merry Christmas Everyone.



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Santa Visits Archie

Photos & Story By:
Lyn Winans



Knowing that practice makes perfect, Santa made a dry run to Archie Stouffer School this past Friday and visited some of the primary classes. It took about four seconds before one first grader asked, "Are you the real deal?"

After pointing to his jolly stomach and averting the spoiler, Santa got back to the naughty-nice and Christmas-list business at hand. Kids snuggled up to St. Nick and divulged what they would like to find under the tree, and Santa gave them books and candy to sustain them until Christmas morning.

The big guy in red had more on his plate, actually his knee, than he'd bargained for when retired teacher Betty Mark along with ASES graduate Russell Snodden, both now volunteers, took their turns on his lap. Vice Principal Peter Ferri also had a chat with Santa, but it appeared that St. Nick could not accommodate his wishes. It seems that there are just some items that Santa can no longer deliver since the newly legislated "North Pole Christmas Aviation Security System" came into effect. The jolly guy must now operate under the same auspices as Air Canada; no liquids can be taken on board for the safety

of the reindeer and all those below the flight route. This Christmas, Mr. Ferri will have to get his egg-nog from another source. ■



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Snow Disaster in Minden Cont'd...

... from pg. 1

by insurance. In the case of Minden Hills, Gleeson confirmed that the three day snowstorm of this magnitude definitely fell under the Act's definition of a natural disaster.

According to correspondence from Environment Canada to Fire Chief Doug Schell, 66 centimetres of snowfall on December 10th represents a new one day record for the area and the two day total (for the 10th and 11th) of 111 centimetres represents a new record for a two day snowfall.

Additional Ad Hoc Programs allow the Ministry to respond to other significant disasters (like SARS and Walkerton). Gleeson and Sharman gave a number of examples of incidents, including floods in Peterborough and Kenora and tornados in the Madawaska Valley, where they could not provide help during the crisis, but had been very effective in helping communities get back on their feet after the fact.

The program is geared to cover incremental costs, or spending that is over and above what would be spent for regular municipal operations. Gleeson advised Council that the financial capacity of the municipality to handle an event was a big indicator in deciding whether they would qualify for funding or not. If the costs of mitigating an event ranged between two and four percent of the municipality's overall taxation they would qualify for up to 90 percent of any eligible costs submitted.

In order to qualify for funding a declaration of a state of emergency has to have been made and the municipality must

request that the area be declared a disaster area by the Ministry. Both of these have been done. Reports on the extent of damage suffered, reliable estimates of costs and time to repair damages and as much documentation as possible are all part of the requirements to qualify for funding.

Gleeson noted that Fire Chief Doug Schell had already provided terrific back up documentation in the form of the letter from Environment Canada describing the snow squall event. "This is gold," he said "to have an impartial third party evaluation of what happened helps to build a package to justify why a specific course of action should be taken."

It is still early days and the cleanup continues. According to Minden Hills' staff, it is difficult at this point to determine exactly what the total costs will be but early estimates suggest a minimum cost of \$150,000. In the meantime, the Council is taking the necessary steps to reduce the impact of what may be a deficit for 2010 before they even finish their budgeting process. ■



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Lyn Winans
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Day of Giving

... from pg. 1

Heffer and Matt Guyatt were busy loading skids of food onto a pickup truck as it was collection day for donations. Their cargo was also delivered to the Minden Community Center where yet more volunteers were sorting accumulations of donated groceries, clothing and toys under the direction of Karen Guyatt and Ron Reid. The Haliburton Highlands Knitting Group had provided mounds of warm and beautiful mittens, socks and hats, and the toy selection was generous and varied.

The unsuspecting volunteers at the collection center were soon descended upon by a large group of snowsuit garbed grade one students. Rather than bearing their own Christmas lists, these youngsters had walked to the arena to unload a car laden with food that they were donating.

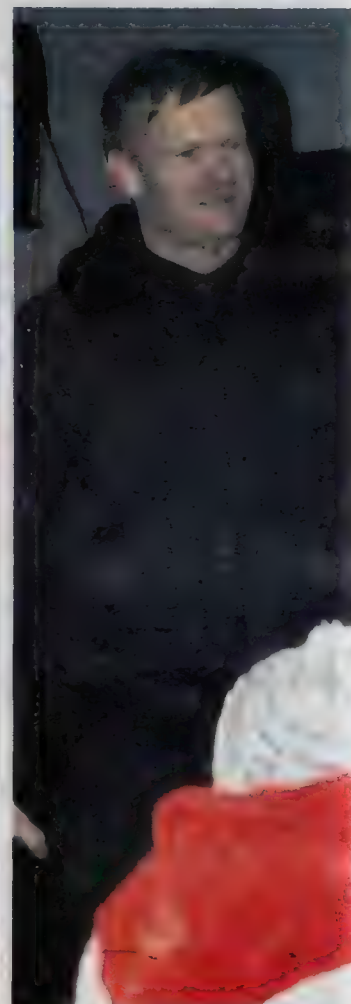
During a recent "Day of Kindness" event at Archie Stouffer School, each class was given \$20.00 to use towards such an act. Teacher Lauren Alleway and Educational Assistant Sue Payne's Grade One students decided to give their allotment to the Minden food bank. But the giving didn't end there: Alleway and Payne challenged the kids to literally fill Sue's car with food, and their students met the challenge. Seeing the fun that 1A was having, Sue

Smallwood's Grade One B class joined the effort. After lugging boxes and cans from the car into the community center, the kids got a tour and an explanation as to how the baskets were sorted and packed. Organizers Toos and Ron Reid, along with OPP Constable Mark McMaster praised the first grader's efforts and explained how even at such a young age, they had made a difference, and could be proud of the fact that they were helping others. The kids seemed to get it; they felt good about their contribution. On Monday and Tuesday, the baskets were assembled and distributed to over 170 families in the area.

It was just another Friday in a small town, but somehow businesses, clubs, groups, schools, churches, retirees, shoppers, teens, and even seven year olds, had come together and busied themselves to make the holiday season one that would be joyous for everyone in their community. ■

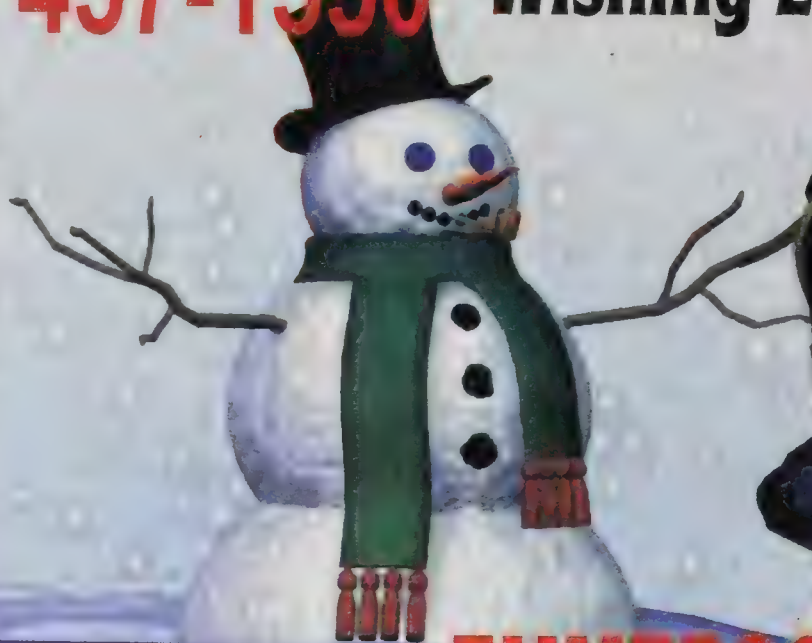


Photos By:
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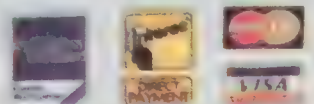
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County Loses 1.4 Million Dollars in Provincial Funding

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

During his opening remarks at last week's County Council meeting, Warden Dave Burton said there were difficult times ahead. He urged the Council to work together as a team and encouraged communication. It turned out that Burton had good reason. Moments before reviewing their draft 2010 budget, the Council was advised of a \$1.4 million dollar permanent reduction in provincial funding allocations across the County.

The funding was part of the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) which was established to assist municipalities with their share of downloaded social program costs and includes equalization measures for areas with limited property assessment. The OMPF was also established to address challenges that rural communities have been facing and provide a measure of financial stability.

This is a tough pill to swallow, but upper levels of government have historically reduced funding allocations several years after they download programs into the laps of municipalities. And the news was not quite as bad as earlier anticipated.

In August the County received reports that it could be in jeopardy of losing as much as \$2.8 million dollars, but it would appear that lobbying through the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, combined with the efforts of MPP Rick Johnson and other provincial members, has had some measure of success, at least for now.

Of the \$1.4 million dollar loss, \$1.2 million is attributed directly to the County and represents an increase of 12 percent in the County's tax rate (or at this point an additional \$21.54 per \$100,000 of assessment). The remaining reduction in funding of \$223,300 will impact the individual municipalities with Highlands East being hit the hardest with a loss of \$153,000, Minden Hills seeing an impact of \$67,500, Algonquin Highlands losing \$2,500 and Dysart only several hundred.

Earlier this month the Committees of Council reviewed individual departmental budgets and Treasurer Laura Janke presented the County's draft 2010 budget formally at their meeting on the 16th. CAO Jim Wilson commented that he felt it was a fair and reasonable budget that would allow for the continuation of the same level of service being provided.

Janke advised Council that there would be a small deficit at the end of the 2009 year resulting primarily from an increase in social services caseloads, something beyond the County's Control. "As much as we would like to tighten things up, there will still be a deficit." Janke also advised that the deficit would come out of their working fund reserve.

The draft budget (before the OMPF claw back) represented a five percent increase that can be attributed primarily to negotiated increases in collective agreements and matching increases for non union employees on salary grids. Another contributing factor includes staffing/operating costs for the two new libraries. Growth related assessment was minimal during 2009 and, according to Janke, translated to an increase in tax revenue of less than one percent. This five

**"It's
time to
hunker
down."
(Murray
Fearrey)**

percent increase combined with the OMPF reduction created a total increase of 17 percent over last year's budget

Addressing the OMPF funding, Janke said, "This funding was used across the board to fund all of our operations and was not earmarked for any specific department or project. The loss, and future losses from OMPF, will have to be reviewed and decisions made by Council." Janke said the loss was permanent and would increase next year.

Council reviewed requests for funding from a number of outside organizations for a total of \$31,000. Funds totaling \$45,000 usually set aside as a multi-year commitment by Trails and Tours, has been reallocated to a 'Trails' and is no longer part of the 'requests' section of the budget. Council also has a multi-year commitment to the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association in the amount of \$20,000 which will be honoured. Decisions on the Children's Water Festival and requests by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust and Community Action were also received.

During the meeting Janke asked Council for a resolution on transfers of surplus or deficit funding from the 2009 budget into general reserves. The total of almost \$442,000 dollars included unspent money set aside for property purchases, unspent winter maintenance funds and funds remaining in place for ongoing projects (including, but not limited to a road project, the broadband program and the Official Plan).

Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey was quick to say that he didn't like this method of accounting and questioned some of the numbers. Fearrey said, "I like to see what we have spent in 2009, not what we need to spend in 2010. This is so convoluted that it's hard to follow and it's a good way to hide money." Janke provided some explanations for the transfers and agreed to sit down with Fearrey to provide further clarification. Reeve Eleanor Harrison said, "I don't completely agree. As long as funds for specific projects that need to be finished are showing, I have no problem."

Fearrey said, "This is not zero based budgeting when you are tucking money away in reserves. I'm not against protecting individual budgets, but not in a tunnel." Dysart Deputy Reeve Bill Davis asked for further discussion prior to taking the matter to a vote, but Minden Hills Deputy Reeve Cheryl Murdoch asked for the vote. The transfer of funds was approved with a five to three vote (Fearrey, Davis and Burton against, Murdoch, Minden Hills Reeve Jim McMahon, Harrison, Algonquin Highlands Deputy Reeve Tom Gardiner, Highlands East Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie in favour).

The individual department heads then provided either an explanation of their budget and changes to it, or provided an overview of their operations throughout the year.

County Librarian Bessie Sullivan was first on the block and provided highlights from 2009 and the 2010 budget. Sullivan spoke with obvious pleasure about the two beautiful new branches

Budget cont'd... pg. 15...

Holiday Greetings



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County Budget Cont'd...

... from pg. 14

and the throngs of people that had already visited them, but this also translated into additional costs for 2010 from changing operations and expanded hours. Sullivan said that she had managed to reduce these costs to some extent by streamlining her operations and added that she had a number of grant applications outstanding.

EMS Director Pat Kennedy reviewed his department's activities during 2009 and his objectives for the following year. Kennedy said that his department was much more than just EMS and had, in fact, broken out into three distinct departments, including Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management and the Public Access to Defibrillation Program. The net 2010 draft budget came in at \$1,848,200 which represented a .49% increase from the previous year. Kennedy commented that consideration of a new EMS base had been moved down in priority given the present economic times.

Planning, the Land Division and GIS services were discussed next by Director of Planning Jane Tousaw. According to Tousaw it has been a busy year with an increase in applications and the work undergone to date on the Official Plan. She suggested that Council review the Tariffs and Fees by-law to increase the application fees, given the amount of time it takes to process them. Tousaw's budget for 2010 came in at approximately \$15,000 less than the previous year and her efforts did not go unnoticed.

Economic Development, Tourism & Marketing Director Bob Smith gave an overview of his department's role and achievements through 2009 including promotional activities for the upcoming G8 in Muskoka, tourism advertising campaigns, the impacts of global recession and economic uncertainties, particularly as it related to tourism activities in the County. Smith's draft departmental budget of \$482,200, a proposed three percent increase over 2009 proposed, is targeted to continue promoting the County's tourism sector and their efforts to broaden the County's economic base through business retention and attraction initiatives, while working with the Haliburton County Development Corporation, the Chamber of Commerce, the Haliburton BIA and Minden merchants as well as the newly formed business incubator throughout 2010.

Last, but not least, came discussion on the Roads Department, which consumes just under 50 percent of the County's overall budget. Doug Ray, Director of the department, said that given the OMPF news Council had received that morning, he might as well just go back to the drawing board immediately. Ray also acknowledged that, because of the \$1.2 million dollar loss, the Council would likely be looking at a very different document in January and that he would have to make some serious changes.

Ray talked about the organizational review that had taken place at the beginning of the year and the subsequent replacement of his retired Road Patrol Supervisor with an Operations Manager. "This will allow us to assess our operations and see where we can make some efficiencies."

Ray reviewed the highlights of the year including the impacts of heavy rains and early spring runoff, the success of their partnership with Bell Alliant in tree clearing work for the installation of fibre optic lines and the rehabilitation of the Allsaw Bridge with Building Canada funds. He reported that the three Infrastructure Stimulus Projects worked on this year were expected to come in under budget and reviewed reconstruction and resurfacing projects on various sections of roads as well as replacement of culverts completed throughout the year.

At this point Ray's Roads 2010 budget proposed a 9 percent increase and a list of capital (reconstruction) projects totalling \$2.3 million dollars. He reported that capital works for the upcoming year had been kept to a minimum level of spending pending provincial funding announcements. Ray cautioned Council that roads systems across the province have been seriously underfunded and that they should be spending three and a half times as much in capital and two and a half times as much in maintenance to complete necessary upgrades and keep the roads in good order.

According to Ray a long hard look was needed at sustainable levels of revenue, but he said, "The reality is that we will not have the funding, so we'll have to take a hard look at efficiencies." Over and above areas where savings could be made, Ray suggested looking at a cost recovery program associated with the 911 system and establishing a reserve for gravel and pits in order to take advantage of upcoming opportunities. Among other things, Ray also stressed the need for continuing work on the Rail Trail to reduce liability concerns.

In summary, Jim Wilson cautioned Council that if they were considering cutting services and programs, restoring those services down the road would come at a considerable cost.

While Fearrey agreed with Wilson, he said "Sometimes we just have to hunker down with a bit less equipment and less staff. Mitigation funding is lost but I don't think we can consider a 17 percent increase. I suggest we ask the staff to look at a ten or twelve percent increase." Fearrey then confirmed that he wouldn't vote for a 17 percent increase because Haliburton's tax payers couldn't afford it.

In response to comments from Janke that a cut from 17 to 10 percent meant as much as \$700,000, Fearrey said, "Then we will have to make decisions on where we can afford to cut costs. Think about this as your own house. If your revenues are down, you could not continue to spend. We must look at what we can sustain and where we can cut. We are working for the people and will be the ones that are accountable."

Harrison supported Fearrey's comments, but said that she believed the department heads should be given the opportunity to determine where the cuts should take place rather than the Council. "We do not have the same level of expertise. A 17 percent increase is fairly impossible, but I could live with a 12 percent increase."

So, it's back to work for the bean counters. The overall draft budget will be presented again to the Council on March the 10th and is expected to be passed by the end of March. ■

Grumpys Taxi Delivers Christmas Assistance

The 4C's gave out Christmas assistance to those residents in need on 17th and 19th December however getting to the food bank can be hard for those who live out of town and who do not have access to a vehicle. Grumpys Taxi came to the rescue when they generously volunteered to drive those residents to the grocery store to use their Christmas assistance voucher and to the 4C's to get their food box. Owner Carol Wilson from Grumpys Taxi said that "it was our way of giving back to the community. A lot of people who need to get to the food bank can't afford the taxi drive there so it was just our way of saying Merry Christmas and giving them the help they needed." Carol explained that Grumpys closed for three years after renovations on the tired vehicles were needed, "we were in business for eight years and then closed for a little while and so many people were asking for us to come back. It's just saying thank you to the community."

Grumpys operated on a regular schedule on 17th and 19th as well as taking those to the food bank. Carol added before the drive happened that "it was a fun day, we put out four or five vehicles so we had enough for our regulars too." Grumpys drove for the 4C's customers from 10am-3pm on 17th and from 10am-noon on 19th they managed to transport 42 residents to the food bank on 17th December which saved the customers a staggering \$630 which Carol says that "they can put towards their Christmas." The drivers Shauna, Steve, Stan and Alan all donated their time as well. Carol runs Grumpys with her husband Stan, and you can reach them at 286-3406. ■

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Police Reports

Festive R.I.D.E. Campaign Continuing

(Haliburton, ON.) – Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment would like to remind the public that the Festive R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign is ongoing and runs through to January 2, 2010.

To date, officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have stopped over 2100 vehicles since the campaign began.

Last Thursday night, an officer from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment had occasion to stop a vehicle that was northbound on Highway #35 in the Township of Minden Hills. The driver was given a roadside screening device test which he failed. He was then arrested and taken to the Haliburton Highlands Detachment.

Charged with Drive Over 80mgs and two Provincial Offences Act violations is Michael Allan Hasler, 22 years, of Minden Hills Township. Mr. Hasler will be appearing in Minden court on February 3, 2010.

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have charged five people with alcohol related Criminal Code driving offences since the campaign began on November 27, 2009. Members of the public are encouraged to take a taxi or have a designated driver rather than drink and drive. ■



Know the Law before You Go Snowmobiling

Having Fun on the Snow Starts with Obeying the Law

(ORILLIA, ON) – The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) are reminding snowmobile riders that to have fun and peace of mind while snowmobiling this winter, riders must ensure they are compliant with the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act.

Many of the rules governing motor vehicle drivers apply to snowmobile operators. Examples include speeding, failing to stop at a road crossing and driving with blood/alcohol levels exceeding the legal limit. Failure to comply with the law carries penalties including fines, loss of driver's licence, criminal charges and/or imprisonment.

"A rider whose Blood Alcohol Level (BAC) is between 0.05 and 0.08 ("Warn Range"), can be issued the same 3-day warning that suspends a driver's licence on the road, with the result that the offending snowmobiler can no longer drive his/her sled to complete their ride," said OPP Sergeant Michael Price, Off Road Safety Program Coordinator of the OPP Highway Safety Division. "More serious alcohol offences will result in licence suspensions that will prematurely finish a rider's snowmobiling season. Consequences also get tougher for repeat occurrences."

To help educate Ontario snowmobilers, the OPP and the OFSC are providing the following checklist. A compliant snowmobile operator must always have on their person or sled:

Valid driver's licence (or if under age 16, a Snow Vehicle Operator's Licence for OFF HIGHWAY - TRAIL OPERATION ONLY)

Proof of snowmobile ownership

Sled registration (including properly placed registration numbers and validation sticker on sled)

Proof of sled insurance (pink slip)

Approved snowmobile helmet (for each rider)

2010 Snowmobile Trail Permit (properly displayed on the sled) with permit receipt.

The OPP is committed to saving lives on Ontario's highways, trails and waterways through the reduction of preventable injury and death. Initiatives are developed and delivered through the Provincial Traffic Safety Program. Visit opp.ca for more information.

The OFSC is committed to proactive leadership in promoting safe, responsible riding, on and off Ontario snowmobile trails, by building safer snowmobiling knowledge, attitudes and behaviours through rider education, safety legislation development and enforcement. For more information, visit ofsc.on.ca.

For more information on the Motorized Snow Vehicles Act, visit e-laws.gov.on.ca. ■

Public Skating at Haliburton and Minden Arenas

Notice

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R. Dan Cornell has been appointed a judge of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. His open and closed files and original wills have been transferred to Carol E. Jamieson who will continue to conduct business from: 15 Newcastle Street, Minden, Ontario. Telephone: 705-286-2611. Facsimile: 705-286-4460

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May the Blessings of the Season and the true spirit of Christmas be with you all throughout the year.

As most winter sports activities continue to increase their prices making it difficult for people to keep up, it's always nice to know that not all of them have to come with a hefty price tag. Ice-skating is a great way to have fun and get a great workout at the same time. All you need is a pair of ice-skates and you can take to the ice at Haliburton and Minden arenas for very small minimum cost. Minden arena is lucky enough to be sponsored by local businesses and they do ask for a donation, to skate at Haliburton it is only two dollars a skate. Minden

arena offers free skating on Wednesdays from 12am-2pm, Fridays 4-5pm and Sundays 11am-1pm.

Leea Sawyer a local Mindenite goes regularly to the Minden rink and says "it's a good way to be active while having fun and socializing. You can spend your lunch hour skating which is much more fun than the gym. Or bring your kids after school on Fridays." Haliburton arena regular public skating hours other than tournament weekends are Wednesdays from 11am-12.30pm and Sundays from 12-1.30pm. The arenas holiday hours are December 20th, 12am-1.30pm, 21st 11am-12.30pm, 22nd 11am-12.30pm, 23rd 11am-12.30pm. There is no public skating on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You can contact the Minden arena at (705) 286-1936 and the Haliburton arena at (705) 457-2083. ■

Have Your Say... VOX POP

What are you doing for Christmas this year? All does all the cooking? Do you ever go away? Do you think Christmas have become commercialised over the years?



Savannah MacAusland, Minden

I'm staying at home and we're having a whole bunch of family over, I help cook with my mum and my Nana. We've always had Christmas at home for as long as I can remember. Christmas has definitely become more about getting presents than celebrating the birth of Christ.



Zack Townsend, West Guilford

I'm going to visit my mum and dad who live in Tory Hill, we usually stick around here, it's usually my mum who does all the cooking on Christmas Day but I help out sometimes. I definitely agree that Christmas has become commercialised, it should be about family and friends getting together and spending quality time with each other.



Sid Henstra, Haliburton

We'll be visiting the children and grandchildren in Newmarket, last year we went on a cruise just before Christmas and that was interesting, it was very busy but we usually go down to our childrens' house. The grandchildren like to be close to their friends. I help my daughter out with the Christmas cooking actually the whole family gets involved. Christmas is far too commercialised, I was brought up in Europe and Christmas back then was more of a Christian holiday, singing carols etc.



Paul MacInnes, Carnarvon

We're having all the family over for Christmas dinner and for most of this week, there will be 12 of us in total. Both my wife and I will be cooking the turkey dinner, we never go away at Christmas we always stay at home. It has become commercialised but to me it's about family and the joy I see on their faces when they unwrap their presents. It's also about sharing time with the people you love.

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman



Orbital Junkyard



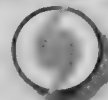
An international conference to discuss methods to clean up the vast amount of "trash" in outer space was held near Washington, D.C. Approximately 19,000 manmade objects larger than 4 inches in diameter are currently in low-Earth orbits, threatening to collide with satellites and spacecraft. They endanger the Space Shuttle and International Space Station. Those attending the International Conference on Orbital Debris Removal heard dozens of ideas on how to clean up this mess, which won't be cheap or easy. Schemes range from using huge aerogel-laden puff balls to capture debris to various types of nets and tethers. One of the more promising ideas came from NASA. The agency proposes the use of rapid-fire laser pulses to vaporize a small portion of the junk. That would provide enough drag to reduce the object's speed and allow it to re-enter the atmosphere, where it would burn up.

Power From Earth



The growing demand for lithium to power batteries on electric and hybrid cars can be at least partially met by extracting the comparatively rare element at geothermal power plants, according to new research. The lightest metal on the periodic table is normally extracted from brine pools and geothermal ponds. With a projected threefold increase in demand by 2020 from expanded manufacturing of lithium batteries, there is a rush to find new sources. In a new technique developed by California-based Simbol Mining, about one ton of the mineral will be extracted each month from the wastewater produced at a geothermal power plant built on the San Andreas Fault southeast of Palm Springs. If successful, the process could be used at other such facilities around the world.

Tropical Cyclones



Nearly 4,000 Fijians were forced into emergency shelters as Cyclone Mick battered the South Pacific nation with hurricane-force winds and torrential rains. Initial reports suggested that while the storm did not cause significant damage to buildings or the nation's infrastructure, flash flooding did destroy a large amount of crops on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu. At least four people were killed in storm-related accidents.

• Small but intense Cyclone Lawrence battered Australia's north-west coast for three days, reaching Category 4 force on the Saffir-Simpson scale briefly. The storm forced the evacuation of offshore oil rigs.

• Cyclone Ward brought rainfall to Sri Lanka but did not become powerful enough to cause any damage.

Earthquakes



Italian authorities say a moderate earthquake centered along the Umbria-Tuscany border damaged some houses while creating a brief panic. About 500 residents of older buildings in the village of Marsciano were evacuated after their homes sustained damage during the shaking.

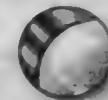
• Earth movements were also felt in southern Portugal and Spain, western India, Timor, southern Japan, Oklahoma City and southeastern Nebraska.

Volcano Evacuations



Authorities in the Philippines warned that lava-spewing Mayon volcano could explode at any time. They issued the alert while trying to evacuate about 50,000 people living in danger zones around the country's most active volcano. Vulcanologists predict that the mountain could erupt for months or punctuate its current active phase with a violent blast.

Global Brightening



A Swiss researcher has explained why glaciers in the Alps melted faster during the cooler 1940s than they have in the warming of the climate over the past three decades. The paradox has been used by climate change skeptics to cast doubt on manmade global warming. Matthias Huss, a researcher with Zurich's Federal Institute of Technology, examined solar radiation data from the Alpine town of Davos. He found that a "cleaner" atmosphere during the 1940s, especially over the summer of 1947, allowed more solar radiation to reach the ground, melting the glaciers. More particles in the air during the decades that followed dimmed the sun and allowed the glaciers to expand.

Hyena Terror



Residents of a southern Kenyan village near the city of Machakos have become prisoners in their own homes after dark following a violent attack by a cackle of hungry hyenas. The animals attacked and mauled two young men to death and seriously injured another two near the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute's Katumani facility. A nearby police officer managed to shoot one of the hyenas dead as the animals were beginning to feed on their victims. One man died at the scene and the other passed away the following day while being treated for his injuries in a hospital. "We have never seen hyenas attacking human beings. We have always regarded them as cowardly creatures," villager Beatrice Peter told the *Daily Nation*. It reports the villagers say they will only feel safe to be outdoors at night after the animals have been hunted down and killed.

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County Voice's Lyn Winans Wins Doors Open Photography Contest

by Zoe Cittern

Lyn Winans has put Minden on the map once again after two of her photographs won first and second place at the Doors Open Ontario Digital Photo Contest. Pitted against a number of competitors from across the province, Lyn clinched first place in the 'Objects' category for her photograph of a McClary No. 9 iron pot from the Minden Hills Museum. Her tranquil photograph of Rotary Park blanketed in mist won her second place in 'Natural Heritage.'

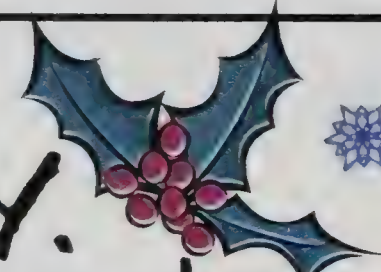
Doors Open took place in Minden in June of this year and in cities and towns across Ontario up until October. The program encourages residents and tourists to re-discover and discover heritage treasures in the towns they live in and visit. Lyn says that "there is so much to shoot in the local area like the wildlife and scenery. Winning a competition like this is great because it promotes the area we live in; it's nice to have local recognition. It was great to win this because I was up against a lot of competitors." Lyn was shooting while the Doors Open Photography Competition was underway and says that "I always keep an eye on what's out there competition wise." Lyn has already won several photography competitions including Canadian Geographic, Retired Teachers of Ontario Magazine, Our Canada, CBC's Nature of Things along with numerous other accolades. Lyn had several possible photographs that she liked but in the end she chose the shots that would best match the categories she entered them into. "I actually prefer the second place photograph of Rotary Park a little more than the object photo. I caught it early in the morning that day, the slow mist drifting across the Gull River. I just keep my eyes open along the way to find things to shoot."

Lyn retired year and a half ago from teaching grade seven and eight at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden and has been shooting digital for the past seven years. "I used to shoot film years ago but I haven't for a long time, it's much more convenient to shoot digital and it's less expensive of course: and not too many places develop film these days."

The competition closed on October 31st and it would appear that Minden was the smallest area to produce winning photographs: most of the other winners came from the GTA. To view Lyn's shots and the other winners go to:

http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/userfiles/HTML/nts_1_11361_1.html . ■





Merry Christmas

Wishing everyone a joyous
and safe holiday season
and a happy new year!!



From Charlie, Ethel & the Team at

Minden Subaru

286-6126




Trap/Neuter/Release Program Gets Kick Started in Highlands East

After months of debate and often heated discussion and despite plans to build a feral cat colony at the Monmouth landfill site rapidly gaining momentum, the Highlands East Council has decided to take firm action. Last week, Council unanimously agreed to proceed with a trap/neuter/release program in Wilkes-Barre and beyond.

The decision was reached through a series of e-mails and will require ratification at their meeting in January, but the problem with feral cats continues in the municipality, someone is waiting in the wings to assist and the Council has agreed that action must finally be taken.

TNR helps to stabilize the feral cat population and reduce it over time. It also goes a long way towards reducing nuisance behaviour like spraying and fighting as largely eliminated. As no more kittens are born the need for animal control or welfare resources is also significantly reduced, along with the complaints.

But Friedman, who out of the goodness of his heart has agreed to become the caregiver of feral cats in the community, couldn't be happier. Friedman has already proved himself to be a champion of these much maligned animals by feeding them, providing them with shelter and ensuring that as many as he has been able to raise funds for have been neutered or spayed during the course of this ongoing debate.

As reported last week, Ministry of Environment officials will not approve the establishment of a feral cat colony at the land fill without an official application to amend the municipality's Certificate of Approval (CoA). Michael Longpre advised that, "Section 27 of the Environmental Protection Act regulates the use, operation, establishment, alteration, enlargement or the extension of any approved landfill site in the province and all lands that form part of the CoA for the landfill site is regulated by the Section 27."

Although he agreed that working with the existing legislation can be difficult and sometimes frustrating, Longpre again confirmed that "any changes that are made to the existing CoA must be applied for and approved by the Director of the Environmental Approval and Assessment Branch of the Ministry of the Environment. The supporting documentation to the application for approval must show that changes such as the establishment of a feral cat colony on these lands will be a benefit to the operation and also take into account such issues as worker safety, public safety, animal safety and health issues."

Longpre also advised that General Waste Management Regulations have set standards requiring that waste disposal sites include procedures for controlling rodents, other animals and insects at the site, certainly not regulations conducive to maintaining a cat colony at the dump.

Highlands East Councillor Sharon Soughton-Cray has confirmed with the vote that the Council members have agreed to allow Friedman to begin taking the animals to the Holburn Veterinary Clinic to receive shots and be either spayed or neutered. The clinic has been working with Friedman for some time, and is offering very reasonable rates in support of the program.

Friedman said that he would keep the animals at his home on Clement Lake Road until an alternate location can be found. He intends to start gathering up the animals in his area and in Grass Lake Road where another group of animals have been reported.

But relocating the animals to a new location could prove to be more difficult to orchestrate than originally thought. Research suggests that many communities that have rounded up colonies of feral cats for either euthanasia or to relocate them to another area have had limited success.

Feral cats have a much shorter lifespan than domestic animals and they become very connected with their territory, their food source and where they find shelter, not to mention being very familiar with the existing threats to their safety. All those things that help them to survive.

It is also extremely difficult, if not impossible to catch all of the cats, and it only takes one male and one female to begin reproducing the colony. Even when all of the animals are removed new cats often move into the area and set up camp.

According to information posted on the "Alley Cat Allies" website, relocation is something to consider only if keeping the cats where they are becomes a threat to their lives and while the risk is great, they should only be moved to a protected area using carefully laid out procedures.

Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie has recently decided to take a proactive approach to dealing with the feral cat issue in the municipality and, while he has no desire to see the animals harmed, has concerns about trying to relocate them. "It's impossible to do," he said. According to Mackie the cats learn how to hunt together and control other predators as a group and without an inherent knowledge of an area they will not survive for long.

Mackie also says that he has yet to see real proof that an amendment to the municipality's CoA is actually required, and argues that there is already a feral cat colony at the Monmouth landfill site. "The cats there are feral and they're feeding for themselves in the landfill area. And we've heard no negative interaction because of their being there."

Mackie is prepared to take the matter a bit further in the ladder with the Ministry. "I cannot see how this would affect our CoA, and if it does, there are hundreds of landfills across Ontario in violation of their agreements."

According to Mackie, treating and inoculating the cats is a definite step in the right direction and after all this time, he's not likely to get any argument with that.

So the saga continues.



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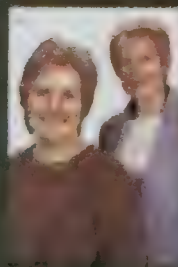


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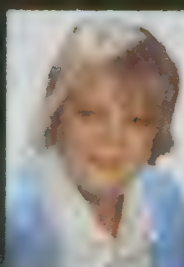
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Wilson



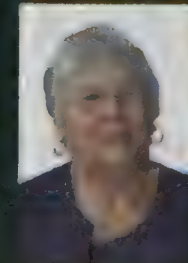
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Barry



Bill
Kulas



Lynda
Litwin



Madeline
Doyle



Marilyn
Hawley



Marj & John
Parish



Rick* Forget,
Iona Fevreau &
Mary Harnden



Melanie
Vigrass



Peter*
Brady



Ted
Vasey



Terry
Carr



Tom** & Gail
Tempest



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Highland Gates Estates - \$62,900
This spacious 1100 square foot home is situated in a quiet adult community, minutes south of Minden. Level and nicely landscaped corner lot. Features include two large bedrooms, den/office, extra large sunroom tastefully done in pine, two car detached garage. Vacant and available for immediate occupancy. Value-priced! Check out www.BillKulas.com

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Vacant Lot - Sandford Court - \$59,900
Beautiful 2.69 acre parcel with 529' frontage on Sandford Court. This 2.69 acre parcel is relatively level with mature trees and forest feel. Private yet close to town. Seller is a registered Real Estate Sales Representative. Contact LB Office for clauses

Cathy* Lancia & Shirley Rule
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Kennisis Lake - \$479,000
Terraced property with a remarkable stone pathway to the lake. 105 ft of sand beach and open view. The cottage is fully insulated with a UV system for potable. Hardwood floors, oak kitchen, & glazed windows, exceptional lighting inside and out. Cedar Cathedral ceiling

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Haliburton Office
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Lipsy Lake - \$1,225,000
This newly built 4 bedroom post and beam cottage exudes quality and whimsy. Nothing but the best materials were used including a CaesarStone Quartz kitchen countertop, slate and hardwood floors plus slate shower and tub surrounds. The soaring ceilings and expansive windows in the Great Room make it a place you'll never want to leave. The waterfront is that perfect mix of natural, deep, rock-shelf with a great sandy, gradual entry area

Debra Lambe
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 244



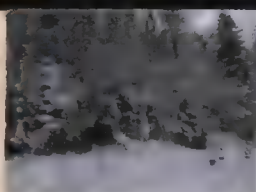
The Value is in the Plus's - \$459,000
On Haliburton Lake. 4 season / 3 + 2 BR cottage/home on large level lot (86 acre) w/sand beach (179ft frontage). Features include warm pine sunroom PLUS w/walkout to lakeside deck, PLUS large kitchen w/breakfast bar, open concept dining rm & LR, 1-4 pc washroom w/main floor laundry area, 1-3 pc bathroom, PLUS games/recreation w/pool table! PLUS w/walkout to lower deck area and hot tub! PLUS COMPLETELY FURNISHED!

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Six Sams Ski Resort At Your Back Door - \$499,000
2.5 Acre Chalet Lot! Located at the Top Chairlift

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286-2911
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Six Acres Overlooking Minden - \$42,900
Large building lot with the most beautiful view overlooking the town of Minden. The driveway was roughed in at one time, hydro & telephone available close by. Several nice level plateau's for building with lots of mature trees

Melanie Vigrass
Minden Office
286-2911
ext. 40



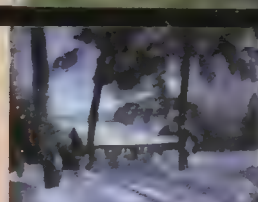
New Price - \$1,179,000
Need more space? Look no further. This home features 1750 sq. ft. on the main level w/ a partially finished walk-out bsm. A formal dining rm & living rm, plus a dinette & a sunroom offer lots of living space. & your laundry is also on the main flr. The main-floor master bdrm features an ensuite with a Premier bathtub. 2 more bdrms on this level share a full 4 pc washroom. Downstairs features a large rec rm, cedar bath, sauna, & a hobby rm, along w/ an office & storage. Other features incl: att. dble gar., hardwood flrs, propane FP, propane stove, c/a/r & central

Elizabeth Thompson
Haliburton Office
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The Bayou Cottage-1157 Ilman Rd-Lot 1 - \$449,000
Stothart Creek Bayou Cottage on .86 ac is located 2.2 km from downtown Haliburton & combines the elegance of spacious living with the beauty of the Highlands. The engaging veranda gives a wonderful welcome to friends as it stretches across the entrance. Inside, the foyer opens to the lr and great rm with its galley window, 9' ceilings & 270 degree scenic viewing in the breakfast nook. Plus GST.

Peter* Brady
Haliburton Office
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ext. 234



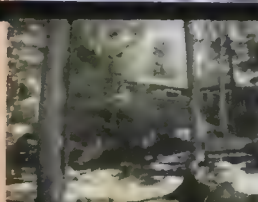
Best of Both Worlds - \$529,000
Dream Chalet on fabulous Eagle Lake waterfront. Make sure to see this large open concept, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 4 season home with breathtaking views, sand beach, a walk to the first chairlift. Only \$529,000. Call Peter Today!!

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1957 Fleming Road - \$249,000
Enjoy this Royal Home in a quiet neighbourhood near the edge of town, walking distance to school. 3 plus bedrooms, full - high basement. Insulated 2 car attached garage. On town water and sewer. Central vac, air exchanger, whirlpool tub and outside hot tub complete this package.

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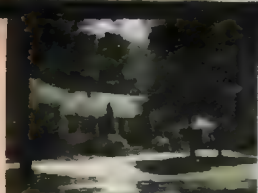
Kennisis Lake - \$445,000
170 feet of sand shoreline in this quiet bay - 1494 sq. ft. cottage or home. Spacious country kitchen with w/o to porch - w/o living room to deck - fireplace - 3 bedrooms - guest cabin - garage - beautiful sunsets from here - private boat launch - two road

Geoff Bunn
Haliburton Office
457-1011
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Starter or Retirement - \$129,900
Great starter or retirement home, centrally located in Wilberforce. Steps away from all amenities, and a short walk to access on Pussey (Dark) Lake. Level lot with large mature trees and a 16'x16' shed. The house has had many recent upgrades. Very neat and well laid out bungalow that shows pride of ownership. You don't want to miss this one!

Terry Carr
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 236



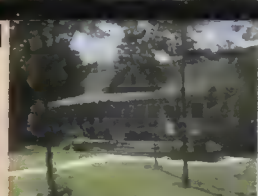
Harcourt - \$185,900
In Harcourt Village and nestled amongst mature pines is a well built and modest executive home. The paved circular driveway leads to an attached 29' x 24' double garage. This beautifully landscaped yard has a stone step entrance and maintenance free exterior that will have you relaxing in no time. Enjoy the large private backyard for summer gatherings and display your talents in the wired insulated Artist Studio. Inside this 2 + 1 bedroom home is a large

Jeff Wilson
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 233



Newly Constructed - \$299,000
Residential - Newly constructed home close to town, very private setting. Modern 3+ bdrm home with ensuite off master. Open concept living room/ kitchen w/ pine floors throughout. In floor heating throughout w/ a wood burning FP on main floor. Finish the bsm to your liking w/ 9' ceilings & 3rd bath roughed in. Circular driveway, drilled well & septic. Insulated Concrete Formed from the ground up.

Tom & Gail Tempest**
Minden Office
286-2911
ext. 41



Sherwood Forest - Boshkung Lake - \$1,175,000
Custom designed & built in 2006 with 200' of south facing golden sand beach on beautiful Echo Bay. Dead level 1 acre professionally landscaped lot with well treed buffer side areas for privacy. Irrigation system for carefree lawns & gardens. This property offers 3 BDRs, lg loft, utility room with main floor laundry, geothermal heating/cooling system, Generac generator system for those inevitable power outages, hardwood floors with porcelain tiles in entranceway & kitchen. Plus more

Ken* Barry
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 228



West Guilford - \$139,900
Very affordable three bedroom home in the Village of West Guilford close to shopping, skiing, golfing and public beach. Bright and clean with many recent upgrades including shingles, septic, hydro service, insulation and new high efficiency oil furnace all within the last 2-3 years. There is also a single detached garage and a two storey barn/storage building

Vince* Duchene**
Haliburton Office
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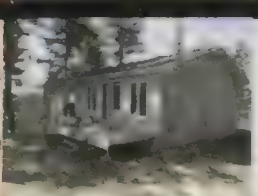
Haliburton Home - \$187,900
This 3 bedroom home is located on Ridgeview Road in Haliburton. Situated on 3.77 acres this walkout design gives you a lot of house. The flooring throughout is all brand new, freshly painted, new pine trim and featured is the open concept LR/KT/DR with pine cathedral ceiling. Main floor laundry and large walk out to deck off the living room tops it off. Asking \$187,900

Linda* Baumgartner & Troy Austen
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 231



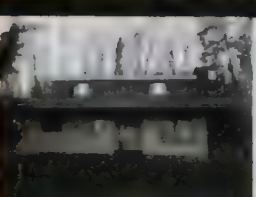
Kashagawigamog Lake - \$749,000
148 ft. of shoreline. Sand beach with deeper water. 3 bdrms, 3 baths in the main building. cathedral ceilings, stone fireplace, skylights, pine flooring and main floor laundry. Large master bedroom with its own private balcony and ensuite bath. Totally equipped 2 bdrm guest cottage with a wet kitchen and 3 pc bath, gazebo, double wet slip boathouse and change room/bunkie at the waters edge. southern exposures provides plenty sunshine. large sitting deck at the waters. Must to see!

Rick* Forget, Iona Fevreau & Mary Harnden
Wilberforce Office
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Custom Built Royal Home - \$199,700
Wow... all the benefits without the taxes! Modern 3 bedroom, 3 bath home offers all the perks, with an open concept layout, master bedroom ensuite, & partially finished, full walkout basement, on 3 ac (with a separate vacant lot included), it is a fantastic opportunity. Sit on the back deck and relax with a great view overlooking Cedar Meadow Golf Course and Elephant Lake or drop your boat in at the public access only a short distance away and enjoy over 34 miles of boating!

Lynda Litwin
Minden Office
286-2911
ext. 35



Haliburton Village Home - \$233,900
Free Internet, Rental income from internet tower, 3 bedroom home with walk out basement, screened in porch, studio over garage +++ so much more. Call Lynda Litwin to view this home

Lisa Mercer
Haliburton Office
457-1011
ext. 46



Pine Lake Home/Cottage - \$239,500
Miles of boating pleasure await on this scenic 3 lake chain, access to Green and Maple Lake. Level lakefront lot with big lake view. Large deck offers sunshine all day with northwest exposure. Featuring 2 bedrooms on main floor, open concept living room dining room, kitchen, full walkout basement with spacious family room and guest bedroom.



Susan Lee
Mortgage Specialist
457-3207

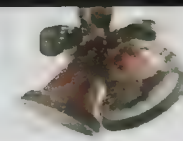
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Bumpy Ride for Recreation Facilities in Algonquin Highlands

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

With the sudden and unanticipated loss of their consultant, John Ashworth, on the Stanhope skating rink/multi-purpose court project due to illness and a new CAO at the helm, the Algonquin Highlands Council finds themselves in a difficult position as to how exactly to proceed with the project.

Working on the municipality's behalf as a consultant, Tennis Club member John Ashworth had issued tenders for this ambitious project earlier this year, but only one bid was received and it exceeded budgeted estimates and sources of funding approved through successful grant applications to the Trillium Foundation and the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) program.

According to a report from CAO Juanita Dempster to Council, the project had been re-tendered as a 'design/build' project. As the initial details of the tenders remained with their consultant, Dempster suggested that it was difficult for the municipality to be able to accurately determine whether any of the bids received actually complied with the scope of the project outlined for the funding agencies, or whether all of the necessary components were included in the bid amounts.

Councillor Carol Moffatt agreed, saying, "It's not clear that the tenders match the work that was intended. And the lack of a paper trail doesn't allow us to understand what is included here. I don't think we're in a position to award this contract."

To this Reeve Eleanor Harrison suggested that the municipality re-tender the project early in the New Year. Dempster agreed, saying that she would prepare a final report as part of a coordinated effort with her department heads on whether the project should be engineered or could be done in house.

Moffatt asked if the project would be handed back to the Committee to manage, saying that the group had been on hold waiting to see what the next move of Council would be. Dempster said that it would depend on how the Council decided to move forward and on the budgeting process. She said, "If you decide on an engineer, you would want them to deal with one person, but if we keep moving forward with a team effort by staff, a committee would be very helpful."

Moffatt commented that it was unfortunate that the project had gone awry.

Ashworth, although he would have been paid a consultant's fee, was prepared to return some of those fees in the form of a donation toward the project. Dempster reminded Council that any consultant's fees going forward would come at an additional cost, which strengthened the idea of an in-house team working on the project. She said, "Time is of the essence as we have to be completed by the deadline in order to get the funding. If the project changes we'll have to determine how that will impact the funding as well."

Harrison suggested waiting for Dempster's report before deliberating on how to proceed with the project. She also acknowledged that the project had created a lot of interest in the

community and that a number of young people had been asking about it, making it a top priority for discussion in January.

Meanwhile during the same December meeting, Council reviewed a request from the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre Committee to support a Farm Credit Canada application for funding to improve the building and its kitchen.

Councillor Don Shortread inquired if staff would be preparing the application, commenting that he didn't want to see another situation where Council didn't know exactly what was happening.

Dempster advised that the Oxtongue Committee would sort out exactly what they wanted to do and a proposal would be

brought back to Council for consideration. She said, "I would like to move away from committees making applications."

Moffatt commented that it was unfortunate that Dempster's experience with this type of application had not been a good one. She supported the Committees' efforts to make wise decisions and spend carefully.

However, Councillor Diane Griffin commented that as the municipality would be liable, the Council should have all of the information before making a decision.

Council's resolution in response to the request was to support the idea as a good one, to applaud the committee for their work to date, but to ask them to do a bit more homework and bring a detailed proposal back for budget deliberations. ■

Local Artist Performs at Rails End Gallery, Launches New CD

Zoe Cittern
Staff Reporter

Although Albert Saxby is an experienced singer/songwriter and has been playing in bands for a number of years, 2009 marked the year of his first solo CD entitled 'Bellbottoms over Liverpool'. Written entirely by himself the songs take on a number of different themes, from lost lovers to bluesy lyrics and the CD has a certain air of country origins about it. Saxby says that some of the songs are "about my life and some are based upon friends but I don't particularly focus upon my life." He adds that he draws inspiration from "the beautiful area around us, it's very humbling to live somewhere like this. And I'm influenced as well by singers and bands like John Prine and Max Webster."

Saxby moved to Essonville in 1989 and has been there ever since. He even launched a country CD named after the small



hamlet which made it into the top ten most played CDs by the European Country Music Association. Although Saxby has focused upon country music in the past and in fact his voice is remarkably similar to popular country musicians his CD is primarily folksy.

Saxby has also performed in other bands such as 'Bucket of Shrimp Ears' and 'Absolute

Whores' and he began his musical career as a drummer when he was 20, as soon as he could afford them. A friend of Saxby's needed a drummer in his band and he says "they were going to get rid of me I was so bad at it but I slowly got better at it." Saxby has since helped local artists such as Trina West by playing the drums on her CD. He adds that "I probably shouldn't have got into singing. I had to fill in once for a lead singer at a gig, a music magazine reviewed me and said that I should have stuck with drumming." Saxby slowly gravitated towards the guitar and like many musicians is self-taught. He says that he enjoys both the single venture and playing within a band. Barry Hagarty joined Saxby on the CD to play guitar and Saxby says Hagarty "is an amazing guitar player, the CD has an acoustic feel to it which I love."

So where does the CD's interesting title come from? "It grew out of my mind, which I guess works in mysterious ways. I was sitting in my car one day waiting for my wife and this old guy gets out of his car and he's wearing bell bottoms almost like flood pants. He had Crocs on too so I started thinking what about bellbottoms over crocodiles but I decided against that. My good friend, the late Ken Goldby, who was originally from Liverpool had given me these striped pants which reminded me of the bellbottoms and that's how the title came together in a roundabout way."

Saxby plans to get into the "folk circuit much more, it's not at all easy to get into though and I'm definitely working towards that. I'm very thankful to the Haliburton Folk Society, it provides a great opportunity for local talent." Saxby was accompanied by guitarist Brandon Humphrey and bassist Ian Pay at the Rails End Gallery last Friday night. Bellbottoms over Liverpool is available to buy at the Heritage Shop in Bancroft as well as the Earth Tones Drum shop in Haliburton, and at the Rails End Gallery. Visit www.myspace.com/albertjohnsaxby to listen to some of Saxby's songs from the album. ■



A heartfelt
thank you to
all our clients
for their
patronage
this past year.

Our office
will be closed
from
Wed. Dec. 23, 2009
to Mon. Jan. 4, 2010
(inclusive).

Wishing Everyone
a healthy and
prosperous New Year.

Ray, Marilyn, Laurie, Sharon & Glenda

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In Haliburton County over 27 years.

Laurie, Ross & family

would like to wish our family, clients and friends
Happy Holidays (and all the best for 2010)



457-1267

Christmas Hampers Given Out From SIRCH

Thirty four families are supported through the community kitchen that SIRCH runs which was created in October 2008. Fourteen volunteers currently devote their time to producing and giving out food to the families that SIRCH supports. Every other week the volunteers come together to prep and cook the food, which is then delivered. As Christmas approached the community kitchen decided to add in some festivities to the mixture and Christmas cookies and treats will now feature as part of a Christmas hamper.

Nancy Brownsberger, social marketer at SIRCH says that "people ended up baking at home because of the snow storm but it still worked out." Sharon Bacon, one of the volunteers who has been helping since its creation was asked by Gena Robertson, executive director at SIRCH and Linda Mintz if she would help start the program up last year. The community kitchen also helps to teach those who aren't particularly confident in the kitchen. Sharon hopes to put together the recipes into a booklet for the families to take home. Sharon not only designs some of the recipes, preps and cooks the food she also delivers the food to the families. She's been a friend of Gena Robertson for 20 years and along with her husband they would often take in kids for the weekend if their parents needed help. Sharon says that she loves cooking something that she "has done all her life, I worked at Hart Lodge and I've always had a love for food, I enjoy helping the families that need it."

The other volunteers who commit their time to the project say that "it's a great program, we need as many volunteers as possible. Sharon is a great cook and its fun to learn from her and get the recipes afterwards." Another volunteer added that "this time of year it's especially even more important. A lot of mums are grateful for the support."

Sharon may be adding another project to her caseload after Rosie Kadwell from the Health Unit has asked her to make meals for high school students who aren't always provided with meals everyday. Sharon says that "I take on a lot but I really enjoy and love doing it all." The volunteers who work at the kitchen are; Peggy Cassils, Judy Cole, Sandre Daoust, Mary Fox, Gerry Hogaboam, Linda Heeps, Tony MacBery, Heather May, Cathy McIlmurry, Sybil Roodenburg, Lindy Smith, Val du Manoir, Amanda Bacon, Melissa Bell, Lois Welch, Amanda Barnett, Pat Shaw and Ruth Fletcher.

SIRCH would love to extend the program farther afield to help those families in communities such as Wilberforce and Cardiff, however with a lack of volunteers this situation is hard to rectify. If you would like to donate your time to an amazing cause either through donating food, money or time to prepare and cook the food then contact Nancy at 457 1742 ext 21. ■

Zoe Cittern

Staff Reporter



Wondering Where to Eat over The Holidays?

Pinestone Resort & Conference Centre
would like to celebrate with you!

Christmas Day Grand Dinner Buffet-
Friday December 25th

First Seating 4:00 pm. Second Seating 7:00 pm
Bring your loved ones to Heatherwood Restaurant and then...relax
and enjoy ***\$ 29.95**

New Year's Eve Magical Family Gala
Thursday December 31st 6:30 pm-Grand Ballroom

A fun filled evening for the entire family featuring: two delectable buffets (one for kids, one for adults), Interactive magician, Outdoor campfire with marshmallow and hot chocolate for all.

Dinner, Show & Campfire

Adults-*\$59.95/kid's \$ 28.95/ Children 5 and Under \$ 9.95

First Night Celebration Dinner
Thursday December 31st

Join us in the Heatherwood Restaurant for a 5-course intimate dinner then dance in the New Year in Highlanders Lounge.

Eye Opener Brunch

Friday January 1st 10:30 am to 2:00 pm

Enjoy a delicious brunch featuring an extravagant selection of culinary creations ***\$ 19.95**

*Prices quoted throughout are per person and do not include applicable taxes and gratuity.



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TIME TRAVELLERS BOOST TO LOCAL ECONOMY. YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED!



Each Year the Time Travellers Car Club Brings many antique vehicles and their owners to Haliburton and Minden village throughout the summer months. Each car attending is eligible for draws on several prizes.

The donated prizes mean so much to the club as they have no way to raise money for draws other than membership fees. Guests coming to these weekly shows are drawn partly because of the prizes. The Club would really appreciate more businesses helping to sponsor a cruise night or 2. They are looking for prizes totalling a \$50.00 Value. It is a win-win situation.

The more cars the Club draws in the more business for the area. A lot of out of town car owners come to eat and shop while here. The number of cars attending is growing and the Club feels it is partly because of the prizes they can give away.

Cruise Night Sponsors

Gloria & Cindy Carnochan, Royal Lepage Lakes of Haliburton Realty, Hudson Henderson Insurance, Minden Collision, Napa Auto Parts, West Guilford Towing

Canada Day Sponsors - Dominion Hotel, Francis Fuels, Godfather's Pizza

Village Chalet

Haliburton Highlands Time Travelers' to date have donated \$8000.00 from their weekly 50-50 draw to the Haliburton

May Everyone Have A Safe And Happy Holiday!

Another Year, Another Arty Party for the Arts Council

By Zoë Cittern

The Arts Council held its Annual General Meeting on recently at Fleming College. Each separate committee spoke of its successes and welcomed change and new members for the coming year. Outgoing Chair Barry Hayward said that it had been a crazy year for him as he had "spent more time away than being in the county." He spent July in Angola which he said "was a special way to experience arts and culture in different communities." He also commented that when he travelled throughout the province that "our community is the envy of other communities with the extensive arts culture and resources that we have." He said that although the arts council was doing well "especially with the small size of the county, we have to work hard and look at creative ways to fund programs and that the demand for educational arts in the community was still high."

Five new board members were appointed: Jennifer Bain, Shelley Beach, Michael Fay, Chris Lynd and Janis Parker. The arts council recognised that Fleming College is a phenomenal place and that it is a great place to involve the youth in the community. The Arts council currently has two youth board representatives and commented that art at the high school has blossomed. Arts Council Treasurer Anne Hodgson said that "as the limited number of grants appear the competition increases for them." She added that they must be "vigilant about new and innovative ways to generate revenue to keep them going. It doesn't just benefit artists but it benefits the county and helps to bring more tourism to the area, especially in the quieter winter months."

The Arty Party welcomed the members of the arts council and non-members for a tropical affair after the AGM. A selection of party food was laid out along with tasty desserts and music was performed by Fleming college students. The Arty Party is a great way for members to network and meet other artists and there were many in attendance. It also helps potential new members become involved and understand the great many ways the arts council benefits the community. ■

Kim McBrien, the Art's Council's new Coordinator

Stephen Patrick

Editor



For Kim McBrien, the Arts Council, Haliburton Highlands' new

Coordinator, her love affair with the arts began when she was just a child. "My interaction with the arts started very early in my childhood during summers when we were cottagers here in Haliburton. If there was an arts workshop in town, my mother would make sure we were involved, and we went regularly to exhibits. There were also a number of artists around our cottage that we visited, and could actually see working."

The Arts Council's formal mission is "to provide a strong voice for the arts in Haliburton County, and to serve as a catalyst for community economic development through the arts: and, through the facilitation of collaborative relationships among artists, organizations, businesses and government, contribute to the vibrancy of the arts and community life." This mandate is made particularly challenging by these tough economic times, and McBrien is well aware of how fragile individual artists' lives can be. She has a rather flinty-eyed view of the so-called 'Creative Economy'; or rather how it's often portrayed.

"Well, I think that what is sometimes missed when we talk about the 'Creative Economy' is that it's still a fact that individual artists in most of our communities, or even small groups of artists, find it almost impossible to make a living as artists. Most full-time artists in this country live at or below the poverty line – and are obviously often forced to find other work. And that's a problem that often those who are promoting the Creative Economy don't face up to. I know that many in the arts community have put the work of Richard Florida on a pedestal, and that work is used as an example and quoted left right and centre, but when you actually look at the studies that have come out of that work, they talk a lot more about corporations and how they can become part of the creative community, and take creative slants in their corporate work, but they don't talk about artists and the work that they're doing right now. And that's a problem."

"Marketing the arts is a very difficult job, with each set of artists needing a different approach to be effective. For example, one of my board members at Visual Arts Ontario was director of marketing for a large bank, and left to pursue a career as a painter, but is having a very difficult time marketing her art work. The fact is that traditional marketing approaches don't work: you have to come up with a whole new strategy. In my friend's opinion marketing the arts involved a whole lot more work than marketing a large corporation, which I found interesting for sure."

Kim McBrien graduated from York University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in music, and the first career decision she made was that she didn't want to become a professional musician. As well, the time was the early 1990s, with a brutal recession in full swing, and very few of her fellow graduates could find work anyway. "So I came up to Haliburton and took a bunch of course in textiles at Fleming's School of Fine Arts, and the rest is history! Really, I think everything I've done in my career has led to this job. I worked as a textile artist for a number of years, and then as an Arts Educator and Administrator for 11 years. Initially, the transition from musician to textile artists had a logic to it – there are specific tones and rhythms in textile work that without question have a relationship to music, its organization and structure."

"I've also noticed that in all the crafts there are very different personalities associated with each one – and weavers are very structured (although a lot of weavers will get mad at me for saying this, oh dear!) but I think it's true. For instance, I'd put Wendy Bateman [Haliburton master weaver and School of Fine Arts teacher] up on a pedestal as a classic weaver and teacher, and if you talk to her and think of how her brain works, it's very structured and linear – very specific almost."

McBrien started as an arts manager with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale: "I think the best way to learn about arts management is on your feet, and in fact the way I got involved in arts management was that I went on tour with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale as a sort of a fun job, and I thought that if I could live with these people on a bus for two weeks, I figured I could work with them as a manager. They basically needed someone to show up at the office every day, to do what needed to be done, and to keep the organization going. So I said, okay, I'll do that, I'll show up every day, and see what I could do. Well, it turned out to be an incredible learning experience, and that lead me on to one organization after another, and I found out that I loved the work."

McBrien went on to be an executive with the Arts Network for Children, the Regent Park School of Music, and Visual Arts Ontario. She's also worked in depth with individual artists in all disciplines to build creative business and marketing plans. As VAO manager she visited Haliburton in the summer of 2008 and was truly amazed at how organized the local arts community was. "As well, the fact that the Haliburton Community Development Corporation has earmarked cultural development as a priority, for example, and has supported and continues to support individual artists and creative businesses, is almost unheard of for an organization of that type. Haliburton is really uniquely placed, and in some ways the arts community is way ahead of almost any other equivalent community in Ontario."

So how exactly does the Arts Council's coordinator see her role? "How can I help as Arts Council Co-ordinator? I'd like to think that I bring a skill-set that can help the individual artist get a start, with things like, how to write a grant proposal, what does a marketing plan look like, what kind of skills do you need to develop to get your work out there and make a career for yourselves, because making a career solely within Haliburton County is difficult, if not impossible. The other goal I have is to help the different sectors of the arts on a larger scale, so to get together the Heritage Groups and find out what kind of support they need, and find ways for the Arts Council to provide that support. By Heritage Groups I mean the Rails End Gallery, the Agnes Jamieson, Fleming College of course, the Stanhope Museum and so on, to get those groups in a room and see what we can do. We're actually doing that

now with the Performing Arts Groups, the Highlands Summer Theatre, the Haliburton County Folk Society, the Little Theatre, the Conjurers of County Town, the Minden Playwrights, the Fringe, the Beaver Theatre (we hope) and so on. So we're helping to establish a marketing strategy for the Performing Arts in Haliburton, to make Haliburton a destination for the Performing Arts."

Kim McBrien is an arts professional with a very realistic, unsentimental view of the realities of artists' lives, and how they can be supported, and their lives and their work enhanced. She admits that the marketing challenge is huge, despite the success of ventures like the Studio Tour, and 'Creative Economy' enterprises like Patient News Publishing, and the rather extraordinary number of local media outlets. But she's convinced that with care, nurturing, and hard work, local artists can indeed continue to be a part of this community, and find a way to their varied visions out to the wider world. ■

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Announcement

Effective January 1st Press Play Movies and Games will have a new owner. There will be no interruption in business hours.

Trace Morfey and family would like to thank everyone for their business over the past two years and wish them a Happy Holiday Season.



**PRESS PLAY
MOVIES & GAMES**



Time Travellers Give \$1000 to HHHSF

Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers donated \$1,000 to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation at their annual Christmas party. HHHSF Chairman Peter Oyler & Executive Director Dale Walker accept the cheque from the Time Travellers President Robert Patton. The Time Travellers are dedicated to having good health care facilities in the county & this brings their total donations to \$8,000.

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BMO Staff Raises a Cool \$5000 for Dysart Library

Andrea Roberts, Dysart et al Councillor and member of the Dysart et al Library Fund Raising Committee was pleased to accept a cheque for \$5,000.00 from staff of the BMO, Bank of Montreal, Haliburton branch.



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Johnson, Brenda Fearrey
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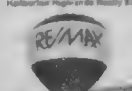
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-Pat Riley

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Working as a Sports Reporter and High School Review



By Matthew Flowers

As of this past September, I had never written for a newspaper in my life. Ever. The only writing experience I had was writing step-by-step exercise manuals for computer training classes – which is even less exciting than it sounds, although I still took pride seeing my work being used in the real world, as opposed to writing for a letter grade I had grown accustomed to getting in University. I learned very quickly that writing manuals about how to turn on a computer was not in the cards for me, but getting published? Yes, I liked that idea, maybe writing about something I actually enjoy? How about sports? Ding ding ding! It took four years of university and another year of work to finally realize what I wanted to do with my life.

When the County Voice began advertising for a freelance reporter, I jumped on the chance with the hope that, maybe, they were in need of some guy to cover sports. Sure enough,

there was an opening, and the next few months proved to be the most fun I've ever had in a job.

It didn't take long for me to learn the biggest lesson of all: writing is just one piece of the work. I never realized that the actual writing part takes less time than everything else; there's also interviews, getting facts checked, recording notes for the story, and most of all, taking pictures. Getting good pictures proved to be just as important as the story itself, sometimes more so. Being someone who has no eye for photography, this proved to be the hardest part of the job, by far. Some sports were easier than others. Football, for example, is fairly easy because of how predictable it is – players have to line up before every play, you just had to follow the line, or park yourself in the end zone.

So what made this job so much fun? There are lots of reasons, but for me, covering high school sports was the ticket. I'm going back to school for a Sports Journalism program in January, so it's only fitting that my last high school story be a review of the past four months of sports at Hal High, mixed in with my own experiences as a first-time sports reporter.

Boys' Soccer

Boys' Soccer has never really been a strong sport for Hal High – certainly not in recent years – but both the junior and senior teams had some great success this year. The junior team won four games, which is actually a recent record for the junior level, given the much stronger competition among the Triple-A schools. The senior team was very successful, as they ended the year as Kawartha West Champions. This year's team had a lot of skill and a lot of speed. Trying to take good pictures of their games proved to be difficult; either they flew by too fast to get the right shot, or I found myself watching the play a little too much and forgetting I was supposed to be doing a job.

Football

The Red Hawks senior football team had high hopes for the season. Winning Kawartha was a realistic goal – after all, most of the team was made up of Grade 12 veterans. They had a deep, talented running game with Drew Paul and Tyler Wood, a strong offensive line, and even a decent kicking game. Unfortunately, the team was hit by injuries and the H1N1 virus at the worst possible time – the playoffs. After overcoming injuries to win their final game of the season to make the post-season, the flu virus wreaked havoc on the team, and the shortened staff couldn't get it going in their first playoff game, eliminated easily by Kenner.

The junior team played solidly all season long, but found themselves in the unfortunate position of having to hope another high school loses their final game so that the Hawks could sneak into the playoffs. Haliburton won their final game in an intensely fought defensive battle, 6-3, to get into the position to advance, but Adam Scott didn't hold up its end of the bargain as they won their last game.



All three little pigs played hockey, but only the pig with the hockey stick made of brick made it to the NHL.

Girls Basketball

Watching girls' basketball was enjoyable for me for one major reason – both the junior or senior team always put in all they had, regardless of what the score was. The squads had some close games and blowout losses, but always the energy and effort was there, making for an entertaining watch every single time. When it comes to taking pictures, basketball proved to be the hardest, by far. Odd, considering it's a smaller playing field than the others, but the game is so fast and constantly changing, there were times I just wanted to yell out to the players, "hold still!"

Field Hockey

What was the best sport to cover these past four months? By a wide margin, it was watching the success of both the junior and senior field hockey teams. The junior team went undefeated the entire season. The senior team won the COSSA Championship for the first time in school history, and played very competitively at OFSAA. Both teams were just so good, and so far above the competition they faced, I almost felt sorry for the opposition. Almost. Actually, my own personal Red Hawk pride shone the most for field hockey; admittedly, it was great seeing both field hockey teams absolutely dominate other schools. It certainly made my job easier, just had to park myself behind the opposing team's net to take pictures, as the Red Hawks played 95 percent of the time on offense.

Winter Sports Roundup

Boys basketball, wrestling, girls' volleyball, and hockey are still underway and will continue after the break. The hockey team are off to an impressive 6-0 start, but competition will be harder in January than it has been so far. The volleyball season is young, especially after having one tournament cancelled due to all this snow, but both juniors and seniors are competing at high levels and will have competitive seasons. Red Hawks wrestling continues to be a strong point, racking up many medals already this season. Finally, if the senior basketball team plays as amazingly well as they did in their last game before the holidays, they could be in for a special season of their own.

Working for the County Voice these past few months, as well as reconnecting with the high school and former teachers of mine, has been an amazing experience that helped solidify my desire to be a sports writer. I'd like to thank the high school community for being so helpful and supportive, and everyone else I had a chance to meet since September. I'd also like to thank Voice Editor Stephen Patrick for giving me the chance to gain experience in a field I had little knowledge of to begin with, and the patience to guide me to become a better sports reporter. ■

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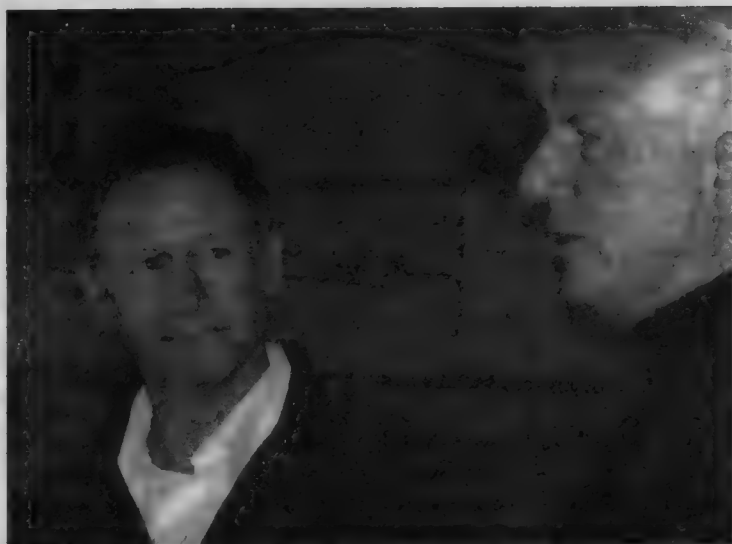
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2011 Ontario Senior Games Announces General Manager

by Zoe Cittern

Twenty three applicants were all vying for the same position many months ago; general manager for the Winterfest Ontario Senior Games, set for Haliburton County in 2011. The applications came from halfway around the world, from Brazil to California, but the winner was from our very own backyard in Muskoka. Haliburton's



Michael Malone (left) and Alan Clark

Alan Clark, the Chairman of the Games Organizing Committee, was pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Malone from Huntsville.

Clark said that "Winterfest will be overall the biggest single event in Haliburton's history: we can use the event to attract and draw tourism to the area and for the participants to come back in future years." He added that his goal as chairman was to "set the standard measured by our games and tell people that they'll want to do business here." Malone is the current general manager for the 2010 Ontario Winter Youth Games so his resume was suited perfectly for the position. Clark said that they, "simply had to hire him", due to his extensive background in volunteering and leadership roles. Malone said that he was "eager to get started" and that "sports tourism is a passion of mine, I thoroughly enjoy my current role with the youth games and I'm looking forward to profiling all the features and accommodations that Haliburton has to offer and to spending time here." He added that he "was honoured to have the role."

Malone will start working with the committee chairs in January next year and once the youth games are finished in March he will begin to work at his new position full time on April 1st 2010. The majority of the funding for Winterfest 2011 is from the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion. However the County itself has made a significant commitment to the Games and additional funds and sponsors are being actively identified.

The 2011 Ontario Senior Games will take place from February 15th to February 17th, 2011 with more than 800 participants, coaches and officials involved. The competitors, who must be 55 years of age or over, will be taking part in the 10 different events. The Winterfest Senior Games were held last February in Brockville and Ganonoque and events included Nordic skiing, hockey, skating, curling and even volleyball. The Ontario Senior games are an exemplary example of what a healthy and active lifestyle can do to improve your health and your later years. □

Storm Atom AE's Tie in Port Carling

Submitted by Karena Crofts

The Highland Storm Atom AE's played their last scheduled game of 2009 on Sunday December 20th at 4:30 in Port Carling. The game was later then usual because three of our players, Alex Wilbee, Jack Dobie and Carter O'Neill were in the All Star game in Sundridge which that team won 2-1. The boys were determined to play well and pull out a win against Port Carling, but they had to work hard for their goals. The Storm did manage a 4-4 tie: Alex Wilbee got the hat trick, and Owen Smith scored as well. Assists were by Trevor Turner, Greg Crofts, Jack Dobie, Ryan Prentice and Alex Wilbee. We would all like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to thank you for your support. ■

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Nordic Trails to Host Ontario Cup in February

The Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association and Ski Club is proud to have been selected to host the Ontario Cup cross-country ski race at their race facility in Glebe Park, Haliburton February 27th and 28th, 2010.

Each season Ontario Cup races draw the best skiers from around the province to this series of four races, one of which is hosted in each of the four divisions of the province. This is Haliburton's first Ontario Cup race.

"I have been saying for quite some time that Haliburton has some of the best race facilities in the province, and I'm excited to have this chance to prove it to the rest of the province" said ski club chairman, Blake Paton. "Ontario Cup races are the largest and most important races on the provincial calendar."

The president of the Nordic Trails Association, John McDonald, added, "This race will have a big, positive economic impact on our area since we are expecting to play host to more than 200 skiers from out of town, all of whom will need accommodation and food for the weekend.

It is an important year for the ski community since the association is also heavily investing in new equipment to groom the trails. "We are soon taking delivery of two new heavy duty snowmobiles and two new groomer attachments for them, and that will add up to \$45,000 worth of investment in our system," said McDonald.

The club is counting on the ski community's support for both of these projects. Paton said, "The race will require a major volunteer effort to execute, and at the same time we are asking both club and community members to consider a donation to our equipment fund to help offset the cost of the new groomers."

It may seem like a lot to undertake in one season, but the two projects support one another. "We really need the new equipment to serve the needs of club members and those many skiers who come to Haliburton each winter to ski. Some of our equipment was worn out, and it had to be replaced. Having it here for the Ontario Cup race will help us prepare the trails better. Better trails means more repeat visitors, and more income for the trails and the area."

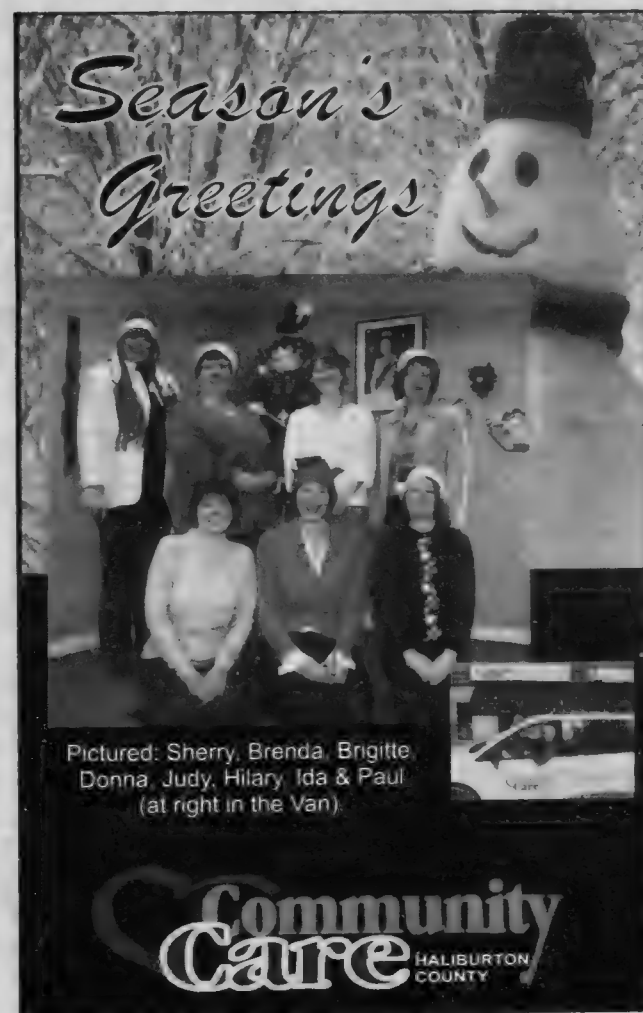
The Ontario Trillium Foundation approved a grant of \$15,000 to help offset the purchase cost, but much fund-raising is left to do.

Fortunately, the ski season has started very well with abundant snow and stable weather, and the new machines are already in use preparing the trails for early-season skiing. The club's youth programs kick off on January 2nd at Glebe Park, and there is still time to register children in the Jackrabbit ski lessons. Visit www.skihaliburton.com <<http://www.skihaliburton.com>> for more information on trail conditions, maps, and club programs.

For more information contact:

Blake Paton, ski club chairman: 705-457-5177

John McDonald, president Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trails Association 457-1027 ■





Stuart Baker Elementary School Christmas Concert

Students helped their parents get in the festive spirit last Thursday and Friday when they held their Christmas Concert. Children from all classes sang their hearts out and the school gym was packed full of proud parents. The French immersion students treated them to French carols and it was a lovely way to draw to a close the first term of the school year. ■

Zoe Cittern

Staff Reporter



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Senior Basketball Team Goes into Christmas Break on High Note

By Matthew flowers

Playing in their final interleague match of 2009, the senior Red Hawks basketball team wanted to go into the break with confidence. Facing the LCVI Spartans, a team Head Coach Roland Zilla recalls never beating before in recent years; it appeared the Hawks would have to settle for being satisfied with a competitive game. Not that a win wasn't the goal, it always is, but it's ultimately more satisfying when you're the underdog on paper and you come out on top. In this game, the Hawks looked more like the favourites, playing better down the stretch to take a hard-fought 39-29 win over the Spartans.

Luke Watson led the way with 15 points, while the rest of the scoring was balanced out amongst the rest of the team, reinforcing Zilla's vision for depth on his team rather than placing all the pressure on a few guys' shoulders.

From the opening tip-off, it was clear what the tempo of the game would centre on – defence. Both teams played very well defensively, limiting fast-break opportunities and easy buckets, slowing the game down immensely in the process. Neither team ever looked to be the better team in the early going, and the first half ended in a 20-20 draw. The Spartans were a little bit more successful at the three-point line, but the Hawks kept pace with more free throws.

The third quarter proved to be much the same, neither team gaining significant ground in a very evenly-matched battle. The Hawks had a slight lead going into the fourth quarter, but there was still no indication who would take it in the end, as it appeared more and more to be a game that went right down to the final possession of the game. This was not to be the case.

The Red Hawks took their game to the highest level they could on defence, and they used that intensity and success to start to make buckets. Steals, blocks, defensive rebounds, quick transition baskets – everything was clicking for the Hawks and the Spartans were just left in Hal High's dust. The Hawks allowed only two points the entire fourth quarter, a remarkable achievement, especially considering how when most teams who play such aggressive defence, they foul and allow the opposing teams to shoot free throws. However, they were even disciplined enough to avoid any foul calls.

When Luke Watson hit a layup with 44 seconds left to make it an eight-point lead, there was no doubt who would be victorious. The crowd clapped and cheered, and the Hawks team was all smiles in what turned out to be a major confidence-booster going into the holidays.

"This may be the best team I've ever had here [at Hal High]. Ever," said Zilla. "We did a great job not to commit any fouls at the end of the game to let them back in it."

The senior team plays one more exhibition game in Barrie before the break.

Juniors can't get Tying Basket in a Close Game

The junior Spartans team showed as much ability as the senior team on defence in this game, limiting the juniors to only 10 points in the first half. The Red Hawks had some trouble getting to the inside, having many shots blocked by a taller team. The Hawks played a much better second half, but couldn't quite get over the deficit as they dropped the game 31-28.

Damon Flatman, who has proven to be the offensive catalyst for the team, ran into foul trouble in this game and had to sit out much of the first half. The Spartans took advantage and led a 18-10 after the first half.

In the second half, Flatman fouled out early in the third quarter, forcing the team to play catch up without their biggest weapon. Despite the loss of Flatman, the team made the necessary adjustments at halftime, pulling together and spreading the floor to attack from all sides of the court. Every player stepped up their game as the Hawks proved to be the better team throughout the half, especially in their ability to cause a surplus of turnovers. The Hawks were down by only three points after the third quarter, putting the win within reach.

The fourth quarter proved to be the most back-and-forth frame of the game, both sides getting their baskets and making stops. With 15 seconds left in the game, the Hawks were down by three and had the ball. After taking a timeout, the Hawks got set up and tried for a layup to get within one, but the shot missed the mark and the rebound was pushed out of bounds by the Spartans. The Hawks, with less than two seconds left, called another timeout, increasing the tension in the building dramatically as a result. The Hawks successfully inbounded the ball to Andrew Murray at the three point line, but he had little time to set his feet and the unbalanced shot went off the backboard and rim and bounced away from the net. The Hawks couldn't quite get the equalizer, and though they kept it close with the always tough opponent LCVI, Head coach Paul Longo was not completely satisfied.

"We were flat," said Longo, believing his team is capable of playing much better.

Like the senior team, the juniors also play one last exhibition match in Barrie before going on holidays.




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Haliburton County Gives John Lennard All the Inspiration He Needs

By Mark Arike

Marketing Associate, Arts Council-Haliburton Highlands

With the liberal use of rich colours, precise hand-eye coordination and about a half a century of experience, John Lennard captures what is perhaps the most spectacular and attractive feature of the Highlands: its picturesque landscape.

"I just love the landscape up here," says Lennard, a locally and nationally recognized oil painting artist who lives and works in Minden. "There's no lack of subject matter; it's wonderful."

It would be a safe bet to say that Lennard's work has come a long way since his older brother first introduced him to the oil medium at the age of 12. Over the years his work has been showcased at studios across Canada and New York. Along the way his name has been included in publications such as "A Dictionary of Canadian Artists" and "Artists in Canada" – both guides to the who's who in the Canadian arts scene. He was also elected into The Society of Canadian Artists (SCA), a non-profit artists' organization.

But before all of the pats on the back came and galleries took notice of his work, Lennard was a starving artist (and student). After graduating from high school in Leaside, a Toronto area neighbourhood, the Barrie native enrolled at the Ontario College of Art. After graduating he packed up his belongings and took off to New York, 'the city that never sleeps'.

"Those were the years when abstract and expression art were really big," recalls Lennard of the '60s. "I thought to myself 'this is where the action is ... I want to go!'"

The experience proved to be an eye-opener for Lennard, who vividly remembers learning in a free-for-all classroom setting that came with some harsh professors in tow. "The Arts League was like a big studio and twice a week the instructor would come in to tell you how bad you were," he says in jest.

Lennard's fling with the big city was fun while it lasted, but at heart, he was always a small-town kind of guy. He first fell in love with the Highlands through visits to his family's cottage on Big Hawk Lake (which he visits to this day). For the past seven years he has shared his permanent residence, and studio, with his wife Marie in the heart of Minden.

"The colours here are magnificent," he says earnestly, seated in his living room that is adorned with his creations on the walls. It's undeniable that Lennard has produced an enviable amount of work in his time, but don't kid yourself – it hardly ever comes together like clockwork.

"They [paintings] have a mind of their own. I always start off thinking that I know what I'm going to do but the painting always has a different idea," points out Lennard about the love-hate relationship he

has with his work.

Lennard – who looks up to the likes of Van Gogh and Tom Thompson – doesn't plan on rinsing off his brush for good anytime soon. He always has something on the go, and that's just way he likes it.

Those interested in seeing Lennard's work, or chatting about the arts, are always welcome to drop by his studio located at 16 St. Germaine St. in Minden. To ensure he's at home when you arrive, book an appointment by emailing lennards@interhop.net or calling 705-286-3037. ■



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Miles Maughan: one Exemplary Firefighter



"I think what sticks out in my mind more than anything is that over the 32 years I can honestly say that every call has been different, every case is individual..."

Miles Maughan first pulled on the uniform of the Dysart et al volunteer firefighters back in 1977; last week, 32 years later, Chief Miles Maughan was awarded the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal, one of the highest public service distinctions of its kind in Canada. Firefighters must have completed at least 20 years of service, 10 of which on duties that involve danger and personal risk.

Chief Maughan was presented the award at the firefighters' annual Christmas Dinner by Deputy Chief Don Stephenson, who praised his Chief as a loyal and courageous firefighter, and who pointed out that the award was long overdue. The Medal was created by a "Letters Patent signed by the Queen on August 29th, 1985. Awards are made on behalf of the Sovereign, by Instruments signed by the Governor General."

Chief Maughan told the Voice this week just how honoured he was: "It was amazing, and it was great to receive the award at the annual dinner, where we honour all the Dysart firefighters from the past and the present. It's a great way to keep the traditions alive, and it allowed me to share the award with all of the firefighters who have served over the years."

"I think what sticks out in my mind more than anything is that over the 32 years I can honestly say that every call has been different, every case is individual. The tragedies, and there have been lots of them, are always with you in the back of your mind, but what I think what I'm most proud of is the way the Dysart firefighters have always worked together, we've always been a team, not just a bunch of individuals, and that's made this work so very special."

Miles Maughan has been Dysart's Fire Chief since 1991, and it's typical of his loyalty to his team and to Dysart that he's hung his plaque and medal in the Fire Hall itself, although "my family's come to see it, of course, but I think the award should be here, in the Hall."



Merry Christmas



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Highgate Alpaca Farm Comes to Haliburton

Zoe Cittern
Staff Reporter



Alpacas are certainly something you wouldn't normally see in Haliburton County, however 25 of them landed in the area in September and Jane McKee owner of them couldn't be happier. She says that "they are gorgeous animals, they have a wonderful temperament and they are very sensitive and gentle creatures" explains Jane. The animals along with Jane live at Highgate farm just outside of Carnarvon. The farm is a beautiful turn of the century building which has been in Jane's family since the 1930s. It ran as a working farm by her grandfather and then her uncle up until the early 1980s. When Jane's mother passed away last year she had to decide what to do with it.

She explains that "at first I thought about selling it but as I was preparing it for showings I realized that I couldn't do it, I'm so emotionally tied to the place. I thought about possibly raising horses here or some sort of animals." Jane says that she can't pin down how she came to the conclusion of having an alpaca farm but that "it was probably through an advertisement I saw." She did countless hours of research about the animals and this built up over the last two and a half years. "I took seminars and I worked on alpaca farms, I learnt how to shear them. Then I just decided to leap into it and it came together at the start of this year." After a tornado ripped through the main barn Jane had to build a new one to house the animals, they have eight acres of glorious of farm yard to stroll through although Jane says that they "enjoy hanging out inside the barn." Alpacas do not enjoy entering dark spaces so the roof is especially made so that light seeps through making it an enjoyable area for them to rest and eat.

Jane still keeps her job in Toronto where she works for her brothers insurance company as an accountant, however she says that she is a "country girl, I've been coming to the cottage every summer since I was little." After renovating the farm house as it had temperamental electricity and no hot water Jane moved in though she still has a place in the city.

The key mission for the farm is to sell the wool from the Alpacas and also to allow visitors to see the amazing animals. Jane says that "you can turn alpaca wool into so many items, hats, scarves, mittens, blankets, carpets, pet beds. Spinners and weavers love working with it, it's really a beautiful high end luxury product. It's so incredibly soft and it's an eco-friendly product also as its grown organically. The younger the alpaca are the softer their fur is, it's an extremely fine fleece. There is an extremely high demand for it and alpaca farms find that they cannot keep up with the demands." Alpaca fur doesn't have lanolin in it either which makes it an excellent alternative for those with allergies to wool

Fram cont'd... pg. 3...

A MISSION OF LOVE 5

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Alpaca Farm Cont'd...

... from pg. 32



and it is eight times warmer than wool. Jane will shear her animals once a year, she explains that the neck fur is extremely soft and the blanket, the main body of the alpaca is the softest. "It's definitely an art to sheering an alpaca" laughs Jane she adds that "I try to do a few passes as possible so the blanket is removed in one piece."

Jane intends to move up to Haliburton County on a permanent basis, "I've already had lots of offers of help which is wonderful. I can do a lot but there is still an awful lot to do by myself." The herd of alpacas at the farm is an interesting bunch each with its own individual personality, "I say that one of them, Jackson is the public relations alpaca around here. He's incredibly friendly, he was born that way and has stayed that way ever since." Alpacas are known to 'spit' however they only do this to each other and they are certainly not aggressive creatures. Jane says that "they definitely have established a hierarchy between them and to them spitting is a way of saying 'back off'" she adds that "they almost have an air about them that says 'I know I'm pretty but don't touch me.'" The animals are still slowly settling in at Jane's farm however they are extremely curious animals albeit a little shy.

Jane has a master's degree in nursing and practised that profession for 10 years and then took to accounting: "there's the phrase that you're meant to have three careers in your life, well this is certainly my third" she laughs. It is certainly a brave career move to make, however the setting at Highgate Farm is a picture postcard with its rolling hills and view of the nearby lake. It's easy to see why Jane has relocated to the area and made the career change. She explains that she "loves the outdoors and animals, its come together as a nice lifestyle. People have been sceptical but I think they've come to realise that it's a complete passion for me. Though they might not understand it they are very intrigued about it and waiting to see how it comes along."

It's lovely to see a farm back in the county as Jane explains that the area "has transitioned from farming to cottaging. I've made lovely friends in the Alpaca farm industry along with regular farmers and gained so much insight and help from them. It's nice to know there are still farmers in the area and that we can support them."

Jane hopes to open the farm to the public soon and to launch a website where people can buy alpaca goods. She ends by saying that "I could watch them all day, they are such intelligent and beautiful creatures and I've become quite attached. They learn to trust you and soon enough they'll go wherever you'll want them to go to." ■

*Thank you to all clients and friends.
Wishing you a healthy, peaceful Christmas
& A Happy New Year.*

from
Gina, Tracey & Elaine

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County of Haliburton Holiday Office Closure

The County of Haliburton Administration Building will be closed on Thursday, December 24, 2009 and will re-open for regular business on Monday, January 4, 2010. If you wish to leave a message for one of our staff, please call 705-286-1333 and follow the voice mail instructions. Alternatively, visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca to obtain a list of contact information.

The County Roads Department has a 24 hour call answer service (705-286-1762) should you require immediate assistance.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: MAJOR CITIES OF THE WORLD

Provide the regularly used English name for the given city. (e.g., La Habana. Answer: Havana.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. Athina

Answer _____

2. Lisboa

Answer _____

3. Napoli

Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. Moskva

Answer _____

5. Warszawa

Answer _____

6. København

Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. Yangon

Answer _____

8. Makkah

Answer _____

9. Al-Qahira

Answer _____

ANSWERS: 1. Athens. 2. Lisbon. 3. Naples. 4. Moscow. 5. Warsaw. 6. Copenhagen. 7. Rangoon. 8. Mecca. 9. Cairo.

SCORING:

18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

Teenager Is Running Scared While Shoplifting For Mom

DEAR ABBY: I am 13 and in eighth grade. I love my mom very much, but lately I'm worried about the things she makes me do for her. She takes me to the mall and makes me steal clothes, jewelry and household items.

I don't want to disappoint my mom, but I'm afraid I'll get caught and get in trouble with the law. What should I do? — SHOPLIFTING FOR MOM

DEAR SHOPLIFTING: What your mother is doing is a form of child abuse. You are a smart girl, and you can have a bright future. It will, however, become much harder for you if you are arrested for shoplifting. That is why I am urging you to talk about this with a counselor or trusted teacher at school. You need more help right now than anyone can give you in a letter. Please don't put it off because I am worried about you.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Kirk," and I have been married for 12 years. About a year ago we moved overseas because my husband is in the military. Before the move, Kirk was gone for a year, and I became very independent because I had to do everything myself. We had had some problems before, but since the move they have gotten worse.

We don't talk or even stay in the same room for very long. Kirk treats me like a roommate and hasn't touched me in more than a year. I have tried to talk to him about this, but all I get is, "I don't know what I want."

Abby, he makes it sound like it's all my fault. To say the least, this causes me stress and I end up yelling at our kids, which isn't fair to them. Please help me because I don't know what to do. — UNHAPPY MILITARY WIFE

DEAR UNHAPPY WIFE: Your marriage is in serious trouble, and it won't improve unless you and your husband can find a safe place in which you can communicate frankly and honestly. An excellent place to start would be by talking to the chaplain on the base where your husband is stationed. If your husband won't go with you, then go alone.

DEAR ABBY: When I was 20 and in an abusive marriage, I had an affair with a much older man I'll call "Ben." Ben promised he would take me away from the pain, and we both left our respective partners.

Twenty years later, Ben's ex-wife is still bitter about their divorce. Although Ben and I are no longer together, I feel the need to apologize to her for my role in ending their marriage. I admit I did some nasty things to her when she expressed her vindictiveness over the years.

I am now married with children and lead a very different life, and I'm ashamed of my behavior back then. I want to accept accountability for what I did and give her the chance to address me. I don't think she will be receptive, but for her to still carry this anger 20 years later — and never to have remarried — validates that I have caused her much pain.

Should I write her, call her or just put it behind me once and for all? — REMORSEFUL IN GEORGIA

DEAR REMORSEFUL: If I understand you correctly, what you want is to lessen your guilt by letting this woman tell you how deeply hurt she was that you helped to destroy her marriage. I can see the benefit for YOU, but how will it benefit her besides dredging up all the pain and anger you caused her? Will it ease either one? I doubt it. Nor will it cause her to remarry or to think better of you.

Better to let the scab stay in place rather than pick at it and concentrate on finding another avenue for redeeming yourself.



COUNTY OF HALIBURTON NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A REVIEW OF THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PLAN OPA NO. 2

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Haliburton will hold a Public Open House and a Public Meeting under the *Planning Act*.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: Official Plan Amendment No. 2 has been initiated by the Council for the Corporation of the County of Haliburton pursuant to the provisions of Section 26 of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990 c. P.13, as amended. The proposed amendment is a general amendment which will result in revisions to the policies in the County Official Plan to address matters identified by the community. The amendment will result in an Official Plan that is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement.

AND TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Haliburton will hold a Public Open House on

DATE: Saturday January 16th, 2010
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
PLACE: County of Haliburton Administration Building
ADDRESS: 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, Ontario

This Open House will provide the public with an opportunity to review the final draft of the Official Plan policies. County Staff and members of the Consultant Team will be on hand to receive comments and answer questions.

AND TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Haliburton will hold a Public Meeting under the *Planning Act* on

DATE: Wednesday January 27th, 2010
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
PLACE: County of Haliburton Administration Building
ADDRESS: 11 Newcastle Street, Minden, Ontario

This Meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the final draft of the Official Plan policies. County Council will hear presentations but requests that written comments also be provided.

ANY PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY may attend the Open House, Public Meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed official plan amendment or the proposed by-law.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS in respect of the proposed official plan amendment are to be filed with the County of Haliburton, Planning Department, P. O. Box 399, 11 Newcastle St., Minden, ON K0M 2K0.

IF A PERSON OR PUBLIC BODY does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the County of Haliburton before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the County of Haliburton to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the County of Haliburton before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

REQUESTING NOTICE OF DECISION: If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed official plan amendment, or of the refusal to amend the official plan, you must make a written request to the Planning Department, County of Haliburton, P. O. Box 399, 11 Newcastle St., Minden, ON K0M 2K0.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: A copy of draft Official Plan policies can be obtained by contacting the County Planning Department after August 15th, 2009 or by visiting the County website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca and following the links from News & Public Notices: Official Plan — 5 Year Review. Information regarding the proposed Official Plan Amendment is available for public inspection at the Planning Department, County of Haliburton, by appointment during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Dated at the Township of Minden this 17th day of December, 2009.

For additional information please contact:

Jane M. Tousaw, A.M.C.T.
Director of Planning
County of Haliburton
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 222
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For week of: Dec 21stx

Horoscopes

It's in the Stars

BORN THIS WEEK: You like to face challenges that others might try to avoid, and by so doing, you set an example of courage for all..

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
An upcoming trip could create some problems with your schedule unless you tie up as many loose ends as possible before you head out the door. Ask a friend or colleague to help you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Being eager to start a new project is fine. However, moving ahead without knowing what actually will be expected of you could cause a problem down the line. Ask some questions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Getting through some recent challenges in good shape might give you a false sense of security. Don't relax your guard. You need to be prepared for what else could happen.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Caution is still advised, even though you think you're as prepared as you need to be. Keep in mind that change is in your aspect, and you should expect the unexpected.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
The Lion's gift of persuasion helps you get your points across, even to some of your most negative naysayers. An old friend might seek you out for some advice.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Being sure of your convictions is fine. But leave some room for dissenting opinions. You might learn something that could help you avoid a possible problem later on.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Getting good legal advice on what your rights actually are is the first step toward resolving that pesky problem so that it doesn't re-emerge at a later date. Good luck.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Longtime relationships work well this week, whether they're personal or professional. It's also a good time to invite new friends and colleagues into your life.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
This is a good week to do the research that will help you uncover those irrefutable facts that can back you up on your new venture when you most need it.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Change is an important factor in your aspect this week and could affect something you might have thought was immune to any sort of adjustment or "alteration."

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Being asked to share someone's deeply personal confidence might be flattering, but accepting could be unwise. Decline gracefully but firmly.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
As wise as you are, you could still be misled by someone who seems to be sincere but might not be. Take more time to assess the situation before making any commitments.

Super Crossword

JOB REQUIREMENTS

ACROSS

- 1 Summer stinger
- 5 Say "Hey!"
- 9 It rhymes with doom!
- 14 Jamaican cultist
- 19 — podrida
- 20 Garfield's pal
- 21 Slowly, to Sibelius
- 22 Field marshal Rommel
- 23 Exclude
- 24 FARMER WANTED!
- 27 Passe
- 29 Roman statesman
- 30 Mare's morsel
- 31 Florida county
- 32 Darling dog
- 34 It's a long story
- 38 Gum gob
- 40 Musical syllables
- 41 GAS STATION ATTENDANT WANTED!
- 47 Actress Hagen
- 48 "— Got Tonight" ('83 tune)
- 49 Air bear?

- 50 Buck's "The Good —"
- 55 Most spirited
- 58 Descend upon
- 60 Stick
- 61 Tiller
- 62 Agitated state
- 63 Oklahoma city
- 65 Bristol brews
- 66 Novelist O'Flaherty
- 68 TV's "Happy —"
- 71 Burn remedy
- 73 — and outs
- 74 MAIL CARRIER WANTED!
- 79 Outlaw
- 80 Barbara of "Perry Mason"
- 81 — St. Vincent Millay
- 82 Dweeb
- 83 Move like molasses
- 85 Attempt
- 87 Stare sala-ciously
- 89 97 Across ingredients
- 92 Weaken, in a way
- 94 Daydream
- 97 Brunch offering
- 99 Tantrum
- 100 Sedaka or Simon

- 101 Out-of-this-world org.
- 103 "Hi, Horace!"
- 104 CHANDE-LIER
- SALESMAN WANTED!
- 110 Singer Davis
- 113 Paid player
- 114 Actor McGregor
- 115 Reunion attendee
- 116 "Zip- — Doo-Dah"
- 118 Wildebeest
- 120 Earl — Biggers
- 123 Get teed off?
- 127 MILLINER WANTED!
- 133 Privy to
- 134 Rod Stewart's ex
- 135 Pageant prop
- 136 — friendly
- 137 Short on looks
- 138 Get side-tracked
- 139 Ski center
- 140 Pedestal part
- 141 — Hari

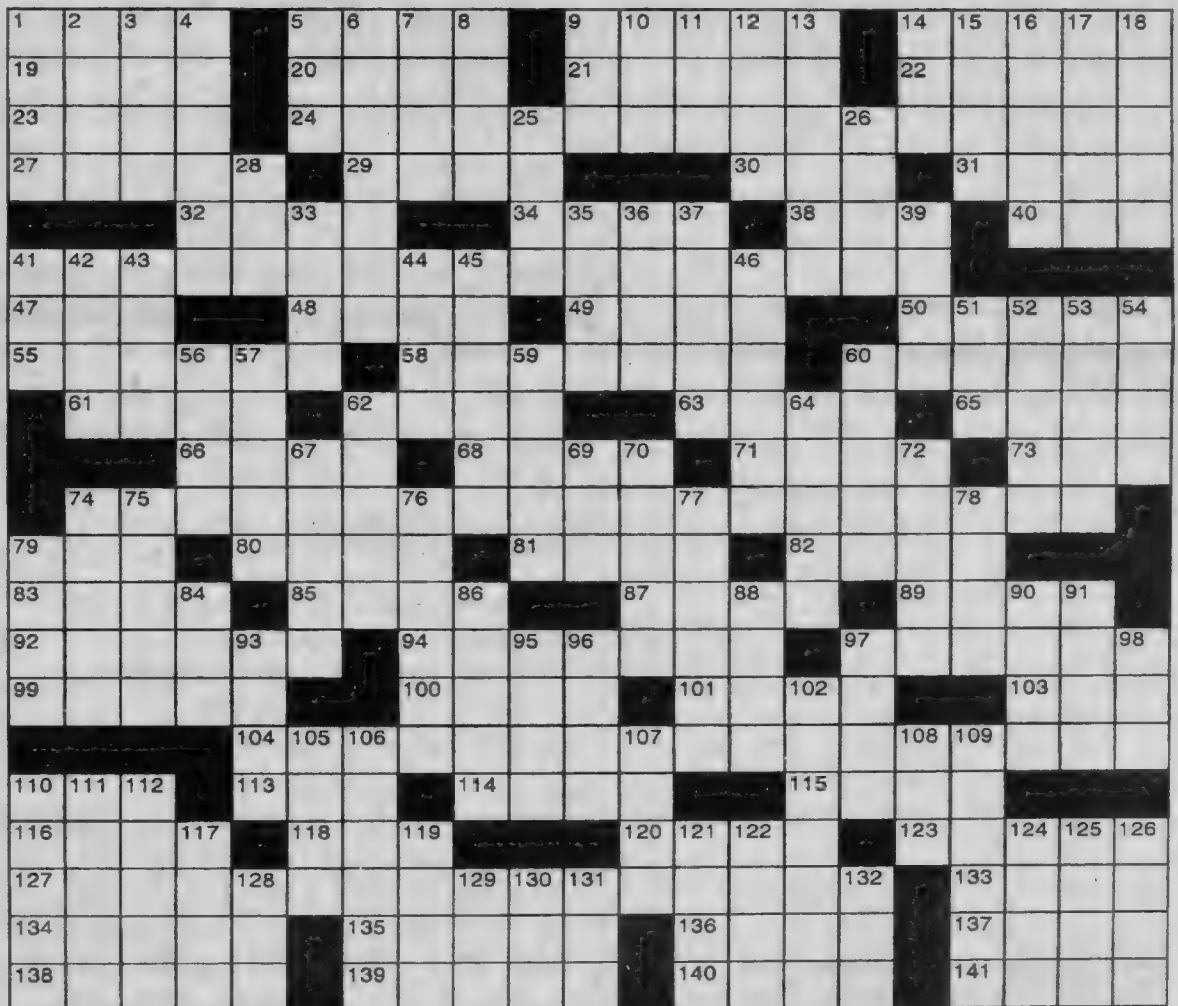
DOWN

- 1 Lumber
- 2 — mater
- 3 Skirt feature
- 4 Crystal-clear

- 5 — Kippur
- 6 Train
- 7 Bonet or Whelchel
- 8 Riga resident
- 9 Day- —
- 10 Clerical abbr.
- 11 Indefinite pronoun
- 12 Henry the Fowler's son
- 13 New York river
- 14 Ump's kin
- 15 Parched
- 16 Vow
- 17 Diacritical mark
- 18 Llama turf
- 25 Word with face or heart
- 26 And others
- 28 Patriotic org.
- 33 Salamander
- 35 Blue hue
- 36 Spiritual guide
- 37 Usher's beat
- 39 Stained
- 41 Toby, for one
- 42 Neighbor of Idaho
- 43 Identical
- 44 A Kara-mazov brother
- 45 Dwell

- 46 Sylvester's snooze
- 51 "Gotchal!"
- 52 Antique
- 53 Senator Lott
- 54 Musical Myra
- 56 Building wings
- 57 Jaclyn of "Charlie's Angels"
- 59 Declare
- 60 Cherish
- 62 Food fish
- 64 Actress Graff
- 67 Put down
- 69 Accounting abbr.
- 70 Murcla mister
- 72 Roger's '77 Sunset Strip" co-star
- 74 Hyper
- 75 Quitter's cry
- 76 Found out
- 77 "— Bull" ('80 film)
- 78 Brink
- 79 Auction actions
- 84 Savage sort
- 86 Former Buffalo Bills player Don
- 88 Rachel's sister
- 90 Elated
- 91 Golfer
- 93 Short-timer

- 95 Survey
- 96 Joyce of "Roc"
- 97 Neighbor of Molokai
- 98 Lapidus or Lewis
- 102 Began
- 105 Press
- 106 Beethoven's "Moonlight —"
- 107 The — 500
- 108 Remnant
- 109 Impressive lobby
- 110 "— Pearl" ('71 hit)
- 111 Mature
- 112 Romero or Frank
- 117 Sicily's highest point
- 119 "QB VII" author
- 121 Israel's Barak
- 122 Tabula —
- 124 Swenson of "Benson"
- 125 Electrical measure
- 126 "Only Time" singer
- 128 Method
- 129 Atlas feature
- 130 Is for two
- 131 Actress Grey
- 132 Theater sign



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DEATH NOTICES



Tom Nunn

Suddenly at Haliburton Hospital with his family by his side on Thursday evening, December 17, 2009 in his 82nd year. Beloved husband of Elaine Nunn (nee Ziolk). Loving father of Michelle (predeceased), Mike & Jackie, Mark (Lynn) and Dan (Angie). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Lisa, Renee, Jessica, Danielle, Kristen, Jillian, Ashley and great grandchildren Ken, Justin, Helene, Trey, Sophia, Victoria, Natalia, Jackson, Lindsay and Jake. Dear brother of Bob, Betty, Collie and Rose. Predeceased by his sister Marge. Also fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews.

Graveside Service

Respecting Tom's wishes, there will be no visitation or Funeral Service. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHS Foundation) would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705)457-9209.

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



Phillip Mathews

Suddenly with his family by his side at Scarborough Hospital on Wednesday December 16, 2009 in his 73rd year. Beloved husband of June Mathews (predeceased November 17, 2009). Survived by his loving children Tony, Alison (Jim) and Terri (Brian) and grandchildren Heather, Kristen, Jack and Annie.

Celebration Of Life

A celebration of Phil's life will be held on Monday December 21, 2009 at 7 p.m. at 118 Pine Street, Haliburton, Ontario. Please join us for coffee and a chance to remember Phil. As expressions of sympathy, donations to The Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209

www.communityfuneralhomes.com

Announcements

In Memory Of

Barry John Royce (Jack) from Edmonton died on December 12, 2009 in his 81st year. Son of the late Herkless and Leona Barry.

BILLINGS - Glen - December 27th, 1999
Philip - January 3rd, 2003

This day so remembered and quietly kept,
No words are needed, we shall never forget,
For those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us everyday,
Unseen and unheard, but always near,
So loved, so missed and so very dear,
Missing you always
Mom and families

Thank You

Coming Events

HALIBURTON YOGA

WINTER TERM STARTS JANUARY, 4TH, 2010

Classes for beginners, athletes, seniors and more.
Call Lynda Shadbolt today at 705-457-3121 for
schedules & more info.

www.haliburtonyoga.com

THE CHICKADEE LUNCHEON

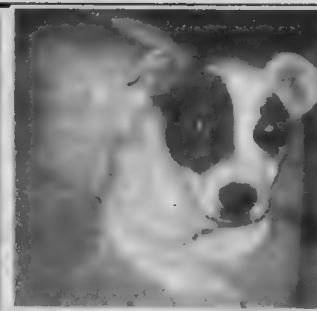
Haliburton Unit of RTO

Will be holding its annual chickadee luncheon
on Monday January 11th at 12:00p.m. at The
Pepper Mill Steak and Pasta House on
Highway #35

All RTO members, retired teachers and guests
are welcome.

Haliburton Unit members will be telephoned
Menu: hot and cold buffet all inclusive price
\$20.00

Call Nick at 705-286-1562 or Marg Valentine
at 705-454-3451 for reservations before
January 6th, 2010.



LOST DOGS

ON MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2009

Blonde and white Beagle; white and brindle patched
Jack Russell Terrier, 2 km West of Lochlin on
Gelert Road 1. If you have any information
regarding the dogs, please contact Joe Graham at
home -705-286-2309 - cell 705-457-5694.

REWARD!!!

CONGRATULATIONS

**Scott &
Amanda
Douglas**



Proud parents Diane and Ross Barry, Leith Clarke
and the late Peter Douglas are pleased to announce
the marriage of their children Amanda Barry and
Scott Douglas on
December 02/2009 at Dominican Republic Puerto
Plata.

We welcome all family and friends to the celebration
of their new life together! Wedding dance to take
place at the Haliburton Royal Canadian Legion
February 27, 2010 at 7:00p.m.

Help Wanted

CABINET MAKER/WOODWORKER

Expanding kitchen and furniture shop
requires full-time help. Minimum of 3 years
experience in a woodworking or kitchen
manufacturing environment preferred. Fax
or e-mail resume to:

705-448-9877 or cottagehill@sympatico.ca

Haliburton County's Local Weekly Newspaper

County Voice.ca

To Our Staff

The Publishers of the County Voice & Communicator would love to publicly
thank our wonderful staff for their extreme hard work & dedication.

Thank you to Editor Stephen Patrick, Reporter Liz Danielsen,
Reporter/Photographer Lyn Winans, Production (and more) Shawn Welsh...
thanks for being there from the beginning!!

Thanks to our great gal at the front desk - Bridget Walker & our always on time delivery gal
Karin Aschenbrenner - and huge welcome & thank you

to our newest staff members, Reporter Zoe Cittern and Sales Rep - Christine Gallant.

Thanks also to Matt Flowers for great sports coverage!! We'll miss ya. Enjoy school!!

You are ALL appreciated more than words can express!! - Have a Great Holiday Season.

County Voice *Easy to Read* Classifieds

Deadline for Classifieds is every Monday at noon

Pets & Agriculture

K9CLIPPERS&KENNELS
2153 HARBURN ROAD.
Professional Grooming
Service & friendly, loving
home away from home
1-705-457-3614 Natasha
Coumbs. (TFN)

ARE YOU A GOLDEN
RETRIEVER BELIEVER?
Golden Rescue, The
Canadian Golden Retriever
Adoption Service Inc.
URGENTLY needs foster
homes, vet services,
"forever" homes, donations,
members, fundraisers/
volunteers. Help us care
for this magnificent breed.
Anything you can do would
be greatly appreciated. For
information please contact
us at 1-866-712-8444 or visit
www.golden-rescue.net.
(TFN)

Lost

LOST - One male black
cat with white markings -
5 months old - Deep Bay
Road and Bob Lake Road,
Minden. If found please call
705-286-6657. (Dec D)

Help Wanted

FULL AND PART-TIMERS
NEEDED - If I could show
you how to make \$500-
\$1000 a month part time,
working 4-6 hours per week
would you be interested? We
train, your hours, work from
home, no bosses. Call for an
appointment, evenings and
weekends okay. Call 705-
488-2727. (Jan D)

SUBWAY MINDEN -
Full and part time needed,
experience in food handling
and preparation, considerate.
Apply within. Hwy #35
Minden, Ontario, K0M 2K0,
drop off or fax resume to
705-286-6843. (Dec D)

For Rent

HOUSE FOR RENT - Two
bedroom fully furnished
house, all electric heat - 4
piece bath. Call 705-489-
2550. (TFN)

FOR RENT - Commercial
space to rent, 152 Highland
Street - 582sqft, suitable for
office or rental, overlooks
Head Lake Call Michael
Easton at 705-457-5143,
or e-mail measton3@
symptico.ca. (TFN)

For Rent

LOT FOR RENT - In
over 55 mobile home Park
in Lake Bonnet Village,
Avon Park/Sebring area.
Will take a 40ft unit. Check
out the park at www.
lakebonnetvillage.com, or
call Gloria at 705-754-2548
for details. (TFN)

FOR RENT - Large two
bedroom apartment, den
and parking, 1/2km from
The Independent Grocer.
First and last, reference all
required. One small animal
is okay, no smoking.
\$660.00 per month plus
utilities. Call 705-457-
2434. (TFN)

FOR RENT - Elegant three
bedroom house in town,
\$850.00 per month plus
utilities, available January
1st, 2010, no pets. Please
call 705-457-2054. (Dec E)

FOR RENT - Two
bedroom apartment 2 miles
west of Haliburton, close to
Independent Grocer, bright
and clean, 2 bathrooms,
balcony, spacious grounds
and parking. Available Feb.
1st, 2010. \$660.00 plus
utilities. Call 613-334-8012
or e-mail elbonito2009@
gmail.com (TFN)

FOR RENT - In the town
of Minden - three minute
walk to Main Street.
Lovely, well appointed
home, large living room
with fire place and a large
deck off living room. Large
master bedroom, second
bedroom average size,
one and a half bathrooms,
hardwood floors and carpet
throughout, fridge, stove
and micro-wave included.
No pets, no smoking, credit
approved and references.
\$850 plus utilities, first and
last required. Call 705-286-
6167. (Dec E)

FOR RENT - Bachelor
apartment, single person
only. \$550.00 per month
inclusive. Walking distance
to downtown Haliburton,
sunny and bright apartment.
Available immediately.
Please call 705-457-3552.
(Dec E)

FOR RENT - Two
bedroom apartment just
outside Minden, \$800.00
per month plus hydro.
Available immediately, call
705-457-5597. (Dec D)

For Rent

TWO WATERFRONT
FURNISHED HOMES FOR
RENT - Short term or
long term. Eagle Lake and
Cranberry Lake. Call Jeff
for more information at 705-
457-3666. (Dec D)

For Sale

NEW COMPLETE SEPTIC
SYSTEMS. 30 Years of
experience in Minden and
Haliburton area. We take
care of all paperwork and
permits. Fully licensed,
health unit inspected. Call
for a free estimate, Brent
Coltman Trucking and
Excavating at 705-286-3952
or 1-800-357-8711 (TFN)

FOR SALE - Honda ATV
350cc 4x4 (2005), excellent
condition, has winch - Like
new, call 705-286-2208.
(TFN)

FOR SALE - Schwank oil
space heater 65000BTUH
\$300.00, electric cook
stove 30" \$100.00, vanity
with top 24" \$30.00, flush
toilet \$20.00, apartment
size washer and dryer 120v
\$30.00, call 705-457-2433.
(TFN)

FOR SALE - 3 IKEA chairs
with cushions new, \$149.00
now \$50.00 each. Black and
white cushions. 4 Captain
pine chairs \$100.00, and
a 24 in electric stove. Call
705-754-2548. (TFN)

FOR SALE - Snow tires
3 new size 205/60 15
\$280.00. Car roof/top and
closed carrier, lockable,
w/ hardware, used once,
\$140.00. Call 705-447-9900.
(TFN)

FOR FREE - Sofa/light
colour - 2 seats - Free. Call
705-286-4783. (DecE)

For Sale

FOR SALE - Medigas wheel
chair - left leg support- 2yrs
old, was \$2500, sell for \$500.
Call 705-489-3746. (Jan A)

FOR SALE - Two snow tires
like new 13" also 13" rims
\$175.00. all in, ultra-matic
adjustable bed w/ remote -
clean- like new, \$1500 B/O.
Commode \$40.00 - like
new. Please call 705-457-
2505. (Dec D)

FOR SALE - Wheel chair-
push-tilts down- all features
included, \$600.00. Commode
(no lifting required), free,
and apartment size cook
stove \$60.00, call 705-286-
3749. (Dec D)

FOR SALE - 1996 Ski-
doo mach Z - 800cc -3
cylinder, studded, rear back
rest, cover, carbides, low
kms. 1997 Tom Co single
enclosed trailer, lift ramp.
Call 705-448-1958. (Dec D)

FOR SALE - Dry firewood,
2 yrs old - \$100 per cord plus
delivery, 14in, 20-30 cord.
Honda generator 6500 series,
\$1200, battery start - new,
water cooled, one owner,
hardly used, paid \$2000 for
it. Black Smith anvil, like
new, good condition \$250,
same as I paid for it, never
used it. 1989 Ford 1 ton -
dumps, 9 foot snow plow,
duel wheels, diesel, cab like
new-changed, \$3000 new
fenders and doors, breaks all
done over, 2 new batteries.
Tires like new, new radiator
support, new starter, new
front springs, shocks - 2
front shocks - double pulley
on plough, cost me \$14,500
will take \$5,500 firm. Call
705-455-9186. (Dec E)

FOR SALE - 1992 Polaris
500, runs great \$1200 B/O.
Call 705-457-2444. (Dec E)

Services

ODD JOB JACK - Your
local handyman - 448-
9965. For any and all odd
jobs. What can we do for
you? Email oddjobjack@
yahoo.ca(TFN))

PROFESSIONAL
RADON GAS TESTING
AND MITIGATION
SERVICES - Radon Gas
causes lung cancer. Protect
the health of your family.
Test your home. Call Mr.
Radon at 1-888-472-3664
or visit www.mrradon.ca
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SYSTEMS 1000's of
channels, no program fees,
all satellite system installs.
306-0023 (local call)
(TFN)

Services

ROOF SHOVELLING -
Jim McKelvey, fully insured
- 30+ years experience. Call
1-888-212-7543 or 705-
286-1581. (Dec E)

Wanted

WANTED - 5 foot snow
blower, 3 point hitch
manual shoot. 1980's 340
Inticers for parts. Call 705-
286-2190. (Dec E)



Township of Algonquin Highlands ROADS DEPARTMENT

Employment Opportunity Full-Time Position

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is looking for a full-time Operator with heavy equipment experience to assist with all aspects of municipal road maintenance and construction. The ideal candidate will be physically fit as manual labour is an important part of the job.

The successful applicant must have a Class DZ drivers licence (AZ preferred) with a clean driving abstract along with a proven ability to operate heavy equipment such as motor grader, tandem dump with plow/sander and loader/backhoe.

Employees are required to be energetic, cooperative, customer service oriented individuals who take pride in their work and have a demonstrated ability to work effectively both independently and with a crew. Dependability is a MUST as is the availability to work outside of regular hours including weekends and evenings.

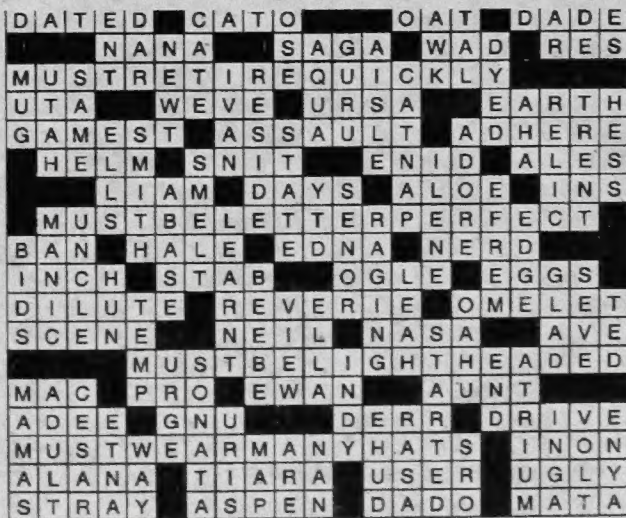
A detailed job description is available online at www.algonquinhighlands.ca or upon request.

The Township of Algonquin Highlands offers a friendly and busy work environment. Interested parties are invited to submit their resumés to the address below no later than 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, January 8, 2010.**

Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Minden, ON K0M 2K0
ATT: Mr. Brian Whetstone CRS-S
Manager of Operations

We thank all applicants and advise that only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

This personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act and will be used to determine eligibility for potential employment.



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Community Care Luncheon at Minden Legion



Zoe Cittern
Staff Reporter

Sixty diners came together on December 17th at the Minden Legion to be with friends and enjoy a Christmas dinner. Community Care Haliburton County hosted the event and the Legion served and cooked the dinner, Gord Kidd and Pat Moss provided the entertainment and everyone had a good time. It was the third Christmas dinner that the organization hosted this festive period with the first and second being in Haliburton and Wilberforce. Community care delivers a variety of programs to the region including meals on wheels, home help, respite care and a multitude of caring roles. ■

Pets are the best company

By Dr. Carol Sanio, Minden Animal Clinic

Who complains the least? Who is the most forgiving? Who is the most loyal? The answer of course is "man's best friend", your dog. Dogs and cats can be great company and a great comfort for those who are lonely at Christmas time; however, this is not the best time to purchase or adopt a pet.

The Christmas season can be the best time of year for many, and the worst for others. The holidays seem to magnify loneliness in people living far from home, those without family, and those whose career obligations or illness keep them from their families. The unfulfilled expectation of family time together can be a source of anxiety.

Although not a substitute, the love of an animal, especially at Christmas time, can make such a difference in people's lives. Studies have shown that people with pets have fewer illnesses, lower blood pressures, live longer, and are happier.

We all know people who are alone this Christmas and we intend on calling to invite them over or stopping by to visit, but the busyness of life uses up our time and energy and somehow it is just not all accomplished. Our forever-faithful canines are never caught up in the marketing and commercialism, never far from our sides, always forgiving, and always want to keep us company. Our pets would make such wonderful people.

Some people own wonderful animals and really appreciate their company and dedication. They see the joy it's brought to their own life, and want the same companionship for others. Some will purchase or adopt an animal for a loved one so that they too may have the wonderful benefits of a human-animal bond. They know that lonely people need to focus on others and find a purpose to combat the feelings of loneliness. Such noble ambitions to break down walls and build bridges and get them out walking to the dog parks, and doing things with others does not always work out the way we envision it. Christmas time is not the best time to purchase or adopt an animal, even though that is exactly the time of year most people think of giving the gift of animal companionship.

Each person has different ideas as to what they want in a pet. Not everyone appreciates such a gift in the dead of the winter or is willing to put the time into attaining a good bond. Winter is a difficult time to house train a puppy with (meters of) snow out the back door and cold temperatures. A chaotic holiday household at Christmas time may not be the best place to introduce a pet, especially a puppy that demands attention and has many needs. Picking the perfect dog for someone else is a difficult task. It is best to have the new owner pick the pets themselves. A certificate or coupon for the purchase of a pet might be more acceptable to the giftee and in the end work out far better.

The Animal Welfare League states that in the months following Christmas, there is a surge of calls about neglected dogs and cats, after the novelty has worn off or the costs of ownership realized. Our OSPCA's fill up in February and March every year.

Adopting an animal is a big decision. It could be a 20-year commitment and should not be taken lightly. It can be the best decision you ever made and change your life completely. Take your time, have the person who will take care of the pet choose the "perfect" pet and the Human-animal bond will begin right away. Then the pet will comfort you for the rest of their days.

Have a very Merry and joy filled Christmas ■

May All Creatures Great & Small, Everywhere in The Land Experience The True Magic & Spirit of Christmas Throughout The Year!



From everyone at **CURRY MOTORS LIMITED**

Sober Second Thought

Health Unit Urges Party Hosts to Plan Ahead For Safety to Reduce Potential Legal Risks

People planning to host a party over the holidays are being encouraged to keep the spirits of the season in check to reduce their risk of being sued.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is warning local residents of the legal pitfalls they could face if the party doesn't go according to plan. Party hosts could be sued if they provide alcohol at their event and something goes wrong. This can include any incident in which guests who drink too much at the party injure themselves or others. Even if a party host does not provide alcohol at a party, the individual could still be legally responsible if any alcohol-related injuries took place on the property.

"It is very important as a party host to take precautions to ensure the safety of guests while at your home or on your property," says Stephanie Ratz, a Health Promoter with the HKPR District Health Unit. "A party safe approach protects your guests and reduces your legal risks."

There is good reason to take precautions if planning a New Year's party or other holiday celebration, she adds. Based on 2006 statistics, the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) organization estimates that each day in Canada, three to four people are killed and another 207 individuals are injured in crashes involving impaired driving. According to MADD, the number of alcohol-related civil lawsuits has increased sharply in recent years, with lawsuits not just involving bars, but schools, universities, municipalities, service/sports clubs, parents and employers as well.

"These are some startling findings that should give anyone some sober second thoughts when planning a party," says Ratz.

She stresses the point that "being party smart does not mean being a party pooper," as a New Year's Eve party or holiday celebration can be safe and fun at the same time. When planning a party, Ratz encourages local residents to also think about ways of ensuring the event is safe for everyone. As a safe party host, consider the following:

- Limit your drinking or don't drink at all. You are a role model and are responsible for your guests.
- Serve snacks to guests because eating helps to slow down the absorption of alcohol.
- Stop serving alcohol a few hours before the party is over.
- Serve drinks to your guests yourself. Do not provide a self-serve bar, as guests may drink more if given unlimited access to free alcohol.
- When serving alcohol, offer low-alcohol and alcohol-free cocktails and other drinks, such as water.
- Find out how your guests are getting home.
- Have a plan for guests who can't drive home. Know your designated drivers, and ensure they are sober. Keep cash and phone numbers ready for taxis.
- Be prepared for overnight guests.
- Don't make alcohol the focus of the party. Plan a few fun activities.
- Decide in advance how you will deal with guests who drink too much. Before the party begins, ask friends to be non-drinking helpers.
- Do not serve alcohol before a planned activity such as skiing, snowmobiling, tobogganing or skating. Doing so can affect your guests' coordination and judgment.
- "Protect yourself and your guests by celebrating in the right spirit of the season," Ratz says. "Everyone will be better off as a result."

For more tips on safe party hosting, call the Health Unit toll-free at 1-866-888-4577. Additional resources are also available through the Ontario Community Council on Impaired Driving (www.arrivealive.org) and MADD Canada (www.madd.ca/english/research/liability.html). ■

Lakeside Baptist Church 5th Mission of Love

Losing a loved one is difficult at any time of the year but as the festive season approaches it can be particularly emotionally and physically draining especially as Christmas is typically the season to come together with family and friends.

It is all too easy to forget about those who are alone on Christmas Day and with most places closed for the festive period it makes it that much harder to connect with people. However Lakeside Baptist Church have extended a hand to those and will be hosting their 5th Mission of Love on Christmas Day. At 5pm volunteers, mostly those from LBC will be cooking and serving a traditional turkey dinner, free for all patrons. After the dinner is over there will be Christmas carols. If you live in Haliburton village the volunteers are willing to deliver meals if it's difficult to leave your house.

Mission of Love was founded by Don and Judy McKay who now reside in New Brunswick who wanted to help those who are lonely or those who are not fortunate enough to be able to afford a proper Christmas dinner. After the couple moved, Cathy and Dale Dovell began leading the festive dinner and recently Stephanie and Stephen Smith along with Sue Bain have taken over the proceedings.

The food is bought with Church donations and some people donate food such as fruit pies along with a donation from the Anglican Church. Sue Bain says that the program is "amazing, people decorate the hall, the Rotary Club of Haliburton this year and last year donated 100 Christmas gift bags, and we have wonderful cooks; Denise Livingston and her family and with other volunteers who prep and make the whole dinner." The Mission of Love program is a wonderful initiative: Sue adds that "last year there was an older gentleman who was in Tim Hortons on Christmas Day and he got talking to a younger guy who had heard about the dinner at the Church, they had never met before and they both came together to the Church. It's just a lovely way of meeting people and not being alone."

The Church appreciates if you register with them before the day however you can still show up on the day. You can call them on 457-2851 to register or call Steve and Stephanie at 457-3394 or Sue at 457-2570. ■



Fleming College

CONTINUING EDUCATION

**Ontario Building Code
General Legal Process 2006**
Begins Monday January 18th

Ballroom & Couples Salsa Dancing
Begins Wednesday January 20th

**Homework & Learning Strategies
for Parents: Grades K-3**
Begins Tuesday January 26th

**Homework & Learning Strategies
for Parents: Grade 4-8**
Begins Thursday January 28th

Custom Cake Decorating
Begins Wednesday February 3rd

**Ontario Building Code
House - 2006**
Begins Monday February 8th

**Ontario Building Code
Part 8: On-site Sewage Systems**
Begins Monday February 26th

Adobe PhotoShop Workshop
Saturday March 6th

Introduction to Computers: Part 1
Thursday March 25th

Introduction to Computers: Part 2
Thursday April 1st

Introduction to Computers: Part 3
Thursday April 8th

Photography Workshop
Saturday March 27th

**Wilderness Survival Skills
Workshop**
Saturday March 27th

Spanish - Level I
Begins Tuesday March 30th

E-mail Workshop
Thursday April 15th

First Aid & CPR
Begins Friday April 16th

GPS Map and Compass Skills
Saturday April 17th

Browsing the Internet
Thursday April 22nd

Chainsaw Operator
Begins Saturday April 24th

Microsoft Word
Thursday April 29th

Wild Edibles Foraging 101
Saturday June 12th

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Closed Sundays in Haliburton

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\$200 off. 7 cu. ft. dryer. #89117. Sears reg. 899.99. **699.99**
Sears reg. 1899.98 total for the pair.
While quantities last. Pedestals also available.

**"Less vibration
= less noise
AST helps keep
loads balanced
to prevent noise"**



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\$300 OFF
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SMOOTH-TOP RANGE
• two 6" & 9" elements
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oven capacity
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24" TALL TUB BUILT-IN
DISHWASHER WITH
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FEATURE
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Black and black-on-stainless
steel also.
Black-on-stainless steel extra.
Installation not included.

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FREE SPIRIT™/MP 2.25 CHP TREADMILL
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8 programs. 11-position incline.
285 lb. max. user weight.
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